



83 Britons join foreign hostage airlift

US rejects Iraqi offer of date for Baker talks

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON, AND ANDREW MCEWEN

NEW doubts arose last night over the chances of avoiding war in the Gulf after the White House rejected a proposed Iraqi date for talks between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and President Saddam Hussein.

Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's National Security Adviser, said in a television interview that Baghdad's suggestion of January 12, three days before a UN resolution sanctioning the use of force comes into effect, was "too late".

He declared: "To me, what it shows is that they're still playing games, they're still manipulating for advantage, they're not serious."

The disagreement came as the evacuation of foreign hostages in Iraq and Kuwait got under way. The Foreign Office said 72 Britons boarded a flight chartered by the American government for Frankfurt. A further 11 were on an Italian-chartered plane which took off for Rome. An Iraqi aircraft chartered by Britain is to leave today, and another tomorrow.

Mr Baker said Washington

had offered four dates between December 20 and January 3 for his visit. Iraq's rejection of these dates showed it was "not serious", but the Iraqi News Agency said Baghdad did not find the dates appropriate.

The Secretary of State said: "We will not be a party to circumventing the 15 January deadline in the United Nations resolution."

Iraq, in a television broadcast on Saturday, continued to link a solution to President Saddam's proposal on August 12 for a conference on all Middle East issues. However, reports in some Arab newspapers suggested that Iraq would soon make a partial withdrawal from Kuwait.

King Hussein of Jordan, who has worked for an Arab solution, yesterday urged Arab states to begin a dialogue to run alongside the American-Iraqi talks.

Mr Baker's visit is due to follow a trip to Washington by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, which Baghdad suggested should be on December 17. Washington said it wanted to settle the date of Mr Baker's visit first. Neither General Scowcroft nor Abdul Amir Anbari, Iraq's ambassador to the UN, suggested the disagreement was unresolvable.

President Bush is to meet Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, tomorrow to discuss Israel's opposition to face-saving measures that if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, Mr Shamir said yesterday, he was confident that America would support Israel by rejecting a security council resolution calling for a Middle East peace conference to discuss Kuwait and the Palestinian issue. Discussion of such a resolution was postponed on Saturday until today.

Mr Bush has cancelled his annual New Year game shoot with friends in Texas and is not expected to leave Washington until after January 15, apart from trips to Camp David.

The departure of British hostages began sooner and more smoothly than expected. "We got them on at the last moment as the American charter was leaving. It was something of a triumph," a British official said.

A Boeing 747 chartered by Britain is due to leave Baghdad at 1pm London time for Gatwick. Two more planes will pick up British hostages in Kuwait tomorrow and take them to Baghdad to collect their exit visas. Another plane will be waiting to take them to London. Those in Kuwait

were advised on Saturday, through BBC World Service broadcasts, to break cover.

The Foreign Office said all but about 12 of the 342 hostages held at strategic sites under the "human shield" policy had been moved to the Mansour Meila Hotel in Baghdad. The British embassy worked through the night issuing them with emergency passports, and the Iraqi bureaucracy proved more efficient than expected in issuing exit visas.

"We are very hopeful that all those who want to leave will be out by the end of the week," a Whitehall source said. However, it is unclear whether British workers who have been building a palace for President Saddam will be allowed to go. Joan Mills, of St Anne's, Lancashire, said her husband John had told her by telephone that he and seven others had been ordered to stay to finish additional work. Whitehall sources said it appeared that not all the 1,150 Britons in Iraq and Kuwait wanted to leave. Some seemed happy to stay despite the risks.

Hostages seeking visas faced difficulties on Friday and Saturday morning, but later Baghdad suddenly eased formalities. The Australian embassy was the first foreign mission to secure visas, enabling eight of its nationals to leave immediately.

Azmi Shafiq al-Salhi, the Iraqi ambassador to London, said: "Our government wishes them to have the freedom to leave to be with their families and friends for Christmas and the new year."

All flights have been chartered from Iraqi Airways, which could be a technical breach of UN sanctions. Whitehall sources said Britain would seek a UN dispensation and was unlikely to meet objections. London was obliged to go along with Baghdad's refusal to allow foreign carriers to participate. The Iraqis did not hide their motivation. Nuriddin al-Safi, the airline's director-general, said: "Our goal is to break the air blockade imposed on Iraqi Airways."

Peter McLeod, aged 45, an Irishman who lives at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, said he was among 34 hostages who left on a jet chartered by John Connolly, former governor of Texas. He was reunited with his Canadian wife Chris at Shannon airport, Ireland.

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Howe urges Major to enthuse over Europe

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Geoffrey Howe last night suggested that Britain's policy on Europe would have more credibility following the resignation of Margaret Thatcher as prime minister.

In his first television interview since his resignation, Sir Geoffrey urged John Major to present the British approach enthusiastically and positively "as a committed member of the community determined to achieve success that takes account of British interests".

The former foreign secretary was speaking amid strong indications that the attitude of Mr Major's government start-

ing at the Rome summit this week and the inter-governmental conferences on monetary and political union will be marked by pragmatism, and a desire to avoid the confrontations of the Thatcher years.

That attitude is expected to be underlined by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, in a speech in Berlin today. He will argue Britain's objections to a single currency, a central bank and steps towards political integration. But he will

Continued on page 22, col 5

Hurd's stance, page 8

Walesa poised for poll triumph

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity leader, was heading last night for a landslide victory in Poland's presidential election, his aides said.

They based their prediction on a nationwide exit poll, carried out by the German polling organisation, Infa, which predicted accurately the result of the first round a fortnight ago. The exit poll gave Mr Walesa 79 per cent of the vote to Stanislaw Tyminski's 21 per cent, two hours before the polling stations closed.

Poland's Roman Catholic Church appeared yesterday to set aside its political neutrality when scores of priests, from pulpits throughout the country, urged their parishioners to vote for Mr Walesa.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, set the tone by publicly casting his vote and even signalling his intention to vote in Saturday's newspapers. That this was a vote for Mr Walesa rather than his challenger, Mr Tyminski, was never in doubt.

Walesa profile, page 8



Walesa in buoyant mood after voting in Gdansk

Seven die, services disrupted as blizzards sweep Britain

By DAVID YOUNG AND RAY CLANCY

ROADS and rail services are expected to be badly disrupted today as the country returns to work after the worst early December weather for ten years, in which at least seven people died. Trains were cancelled, hundreds of thousands of homes left without electricity and motorways blocked as the Arctic weather swept across the country. Weathermen warned that it will stay cold this week and that more snow and sleet is on the way. The freezing conditions also caused severe problems in parts of Europe. In France 16 inches of snow fell overnight in some places and roads were

blocked and electricity lines cut. Two of those who lost their lives in Britain were heart attack victims who could not be reached by snowbound ambulances in county Durham and Wiltshire. Richard Williams, aged 20, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, froze to death when his car was stranded for 11 hours in a snowdrift on an exposed hillside just outside the town. His passenger, a friend who has not been named, survived and was taken to Kingsmill hospital, Mansfield, suffering from hypothermia. Police said the two had decided to stay inside

the car until dawn but found themselves trapped by drifts. Another man died near Manchester. United's Old Trafford football ground when a wall and a sign attached to it collapsed in the high winds. Three people died on the roads in Northern Ireland. A couple in their twenties died when the car they were travelling in crashed into a pillar in Co Londonderry and an off-duty policeman was killed when his car was involved in a head-on collision in Co Antrim.

Howard Stevenson, a part-time farmer, was rescued after spending 27 hours in an igloo he carved out of the snow with his bare hands. Mr Stevenson, aged 56, was lost in a blizzard when he tried to rescue his sheep on a hillside near Harrogate, north Yorkshire. He was flown by helicopter to Harrogate district hospital suffering from cold and exposure.

Many roads remained blocked last night. The south was hit by "a pack" of snow, according to weathermen and the north was promised more of the same. The London Weather Centre said that a second blast of cold air sweeping in from Belgium and northern France will settle across the southeast bringing

more snow, sleet and freezing winds. "Winter has come with a vengeance," a spokesman said. "Conditions are going to be quite nasty. It looks like staying cold over the next few days." The worst-affected areas over the weekend were the northeast, the Midlands and Wales.

Some schools warned parents not to send their children to classroom today. Head teachers in Worcestershire, one of the worst-affected areas, said schools would not be open.

Rail services throughout the country were disrupted. British Rail took the "unprecedented" decision to suspend all InterCity services on the west coast and Midland mainlines. Hundreds of trains were cancelled, leaving thousands of passengers stranded. Limited services did not restart until 2pm yesterday on the lines from Exeter to Glasgow - via Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool - and St Paul's to Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. The ice and winds caused widespread rail

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Cold comfort for sell-off investors

By MARTIN WALLER

THE bad weather could leave some of the 5.7 million people who have invested in the stock market floundering in the 12 regional electricity companies out in the cold.

Government advisers to the first admitted last night that share certificates, without which most people will be unable to sell their shares and make a profit, would probably arrive well after Christmas.

The original plan had been to post the certificates about December 19, but the Arctic weather has meant time lost at the printers. An attempt will

be made to reach the post by Christmas, but continuing bad weather could make this impossible.

The receiving banks, led by Lloyds, have processed 12.75 million applications, making this the most popular privatisation yet.

The volume of the response has added to the delay. About half the applications were being counted at the weekend in Birmingham, where Lloyds staff trudged through blizzards to get to work.

Share allocation, page 23

Britain's jobless could 'increase by a million'

By COLIN NARBOROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work could rise by more than a million, if Britain fails to curb inflation now it is a member of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, according to a report by the Confederation of British Industry.

It compares British prospects for benefiting from ERM disciplines with France's experience in the 1980s, when France reduced inflation at an "unusually favourable" period. Britain, however, would be "unrealistic" to count on equally good fortune.

The study, by Professor

Douglas McWilliams, the CBI's chief economic adviser, and Douglas Godden, a CBI economist, says that France's reduction of inflation after 1983 was a "resounding success", although it was bought at the expense of initially constrained growth and high unemployment.

The experience suggests that if Britain is successful in applying ERM discipline, unemployment is likely to rise by half a million. If unsuccessful the rise could be "perhaps as much as a million or more".

Inflation outlook, page 23

Rum time of year for prohibited puddings

By ROBIN YOUNG

GOOD news for weight-watchers who think Christmas pudding should be illegal. It is.

So indeed are mince pies. Without wishing to put a legal blight on the festive season, it has to be admitted that Christmas is a pretty rum time for students of the law.

It was, naturally enough, the great English spoliator, Oliver Cromwell, who decreed that mince pies and plum puddings were "abominable idolatrous things to be avoided by Christians". One of his statutes, never formally repealed, provided that anyone could be fined or imprisoned for either eating or making them.

No British law dictates what ingredients a Christmas pudding may contain, though some of the

traditional part of commercial manufacturers' recipes may soon be banned. A French coroner did once demand that safety standards should be imposed. He had just ruled that a family of three had succumbed to the fumes of an English Christmas pudding. The British authorities sensibly ignored the claim, and nobody has been reported to have been whiffed off in similar fashion since.

This year shoppers have done rather less than their best to strip the shelves bare. Theoretically though the law obliges all traders to empty their windows on Christmas eve. Under the Christmas Act of 1448 it is illegal for any merchandise to be displayed on Christmas day.

Equally it is an offence not to attend church over Christmas. The Act of Uniformity of 1551 sets out penalties

for those who fail to attend their devotions "having no lawful or reasonable excuse to be absent".

None of this needs to be taken too seriously since legislation of 1831, which forbids hunting on Christmas day, also stipulates that nobody can be arrested for anything but serious crime or breach of the peace. That should obviously be interpreted to include drink-driving. It is the same enlightened piece of legislation which prevents debt collectors calling over the holiday, and which ensures that we cannot be served with writs or summonses over Christmas lunch.

Litigation over Christmas is not uncommon. Apart from tax cases in which the scribes of the Inland Revenue established their claim that Christmas bonuses from employers are part of taxable income, there

individuals have also been involved. In 1980 a woman from Peterborough threatened to invoke the Equal Opportunities Act because her local jobscentre had refused her plea for employment as a Father Christmas. Her complaint appeared reasonable, since in Scandinavia where postal authorities employ special personnel to represent Father Christmas by answering children's letters the jobs are mostly filled by women.

No matter, in a few days we shall be through this period of doubtful legality and into the season of winter sales. That brings us into the domain of the price marking legislation which practically nobody understands and few abide by. Happy new year to you all.

Insurance cover, page 16
Three Alliances, page 27

INSIDE

IOC to visit South Africa

South Africa's return to sporting competition on a world scale moved closer after the announcement that the International Olympic Committee is to send an official delegation to the country for the first time in 23 years.

Keba M'Baye, the IOC member for Senegal, will head the delegation. He said a return in time for the 1992 games was not out of the question. Page 38

Tyson triumph



Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, beat Alex Stewart, a London-born Jamaican, in the first round of their bout in Atlantic City. Page 37

Ershad fights on

General Ershad, who resigned as president of Bangladesh six days ago after a mass uprising, is to contest elections due within 12 weeks. Page 6

Field refusal

Labour faces renewed embarrassment after the MP Frank Field said he would not take part in a new reselection contest. Page 22

City enquiry

Accountants are investigating the affairs of the Levitt Group, the financial services company that arranged insurance and investment deals for sports and entertainment personalities. Page 23

England woe

England's dismal cricket form continued when they lost to Australia by six wickets in their World Series match in Perth yesterday. Page 38

New engineers

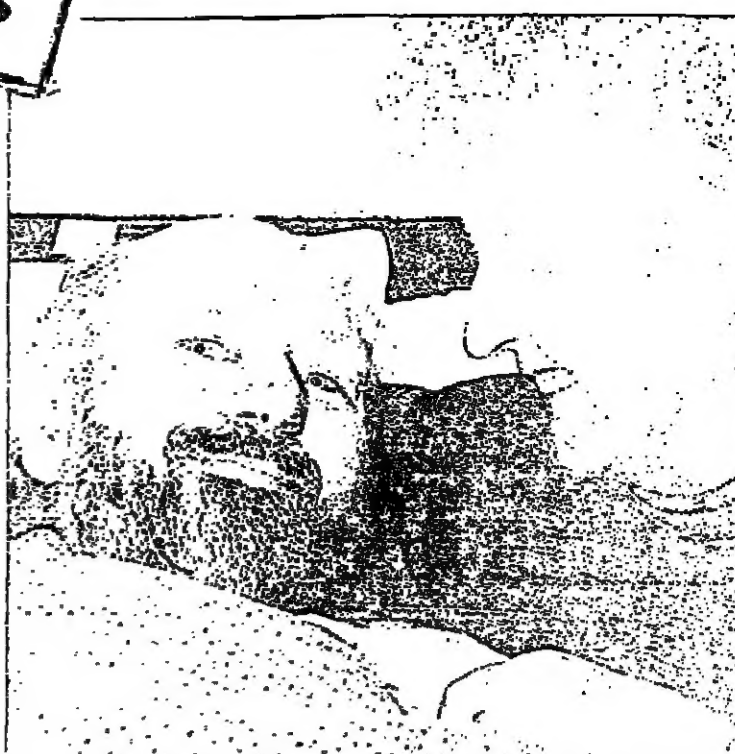
A list of newly qualified chartered engineers will be published tomorrow.

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هكذا من الأول

The first snows of winter bring days of disruption and drama



Making the most of the snow in Leicester, redundant direction near Solihull, and Howard Stevenson, who survived on the Yorkshire moors for 27 hours by building an igloo, is comforted by his wife Pamela

Britain caught unawares again

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was — many would say as usual — totally unprepared for the Arctic-like weather that hit the country over the weekend.

It took snow falls of between 10cm and 15cm to reduce a developed country with a proud technical and engineering tradition to the level of a pre-industrial society without heating, lighting, rail and road services in many parts.

A managing director of a Midlands road haulage company, who called *The Times* yesterday, could barely contain his frustration and anger. "It's absolutely diabolical," he said. "The roads are this country's life-blood, yet the police on the M6 are overwhelmed by a bit of snow and thousands of trucks and drivers are stranded. The West Midlands police tell me that the snow ploughs are not heavy enough. We need modern machines like those in Scandinavia that blow the snow away."

That parts of Britain could be paralysed by a snowfall such as this weekend's astonished a spokesman for Public Service of Colorado, Denver, which provides electricity in the Rocky Mountains. "It doesn't seem very much," he said. "We have cables running at 1,000 feet over passes in blizzard conditions. The only time we really have problems is if somebody skids into

transmission equipment."

Power lines sometimes fail in sub-zero temperatures because the metal fractures, or because they are hit by debris blown by the wind. For the past 17 years, electricity supplies in some areas of Scandinavia and Germany have been transmitted by cables called aerial bunched conductors (ABC).

Instead of the three live wires that dangle from British pylons, ABC lines are twisted together into one thicker, insulated cable, which is less prone to fracturing. Because the conductor covers less area in the air it is also less likely to be hit by debris.

British trials have been conducted on ABC cable, but one drawback is its higher cost.

Higher cost is also one of the reasons why Britain does not have railway points systems designed to remain ice-free. On the Continent and in North America the trains are kept running with the help of gas-fired or electrically heated points.

While the present wintry weather comes as a shock, we should not get over-excited (William Burroughs writes). The past three winters have been exceptionally mild, but widespread snow and low temperatures are not that unusual in the British Isles.

The last really cold spell was in January 1987, which caused big disruptions in southern

England and featured the lowest daytime temperatures recorded this century. Moreover, it followed notable wintry spells including one that lasted for the whole of February 1986.

The present cold weather has a long way to go before it can match any of these episodes. It is more exceptional in respect of its earliness.

Comparable severe winter weather in the first half of December has happened just three times in the past 50 years: in 1950, 1967 and 1981.

In 1950, cold northerly winds brought heavy snow to much of the country, with the Isle of Wight particularly hard-hit. On December 15,

15in of snow fell on Shanklin in just a few hours. Further north, the Caledonian and Forth-Clyde canals were frozen in places.

An Arctic blast between December 6-11 1967 caused havoc, bringing low temperatures and frequent snow falls. The worst conditions were in Brighton, where 11ins of snow on December 8 brought traffic to a standstill.

December 1981 saw a more sustained cold spell. Unexpected heavy snow on December 8 paralysed much of southern England. More striking was the record-breaking night-time temperatures. In Shawbury, Shropshire, a new low for England of -23C (-9F) was recorded on Decem-

ber 12, only to be broken on December 13 with a temperature of -25C (-13F).

As indicators of what we can expect for the rest of the winter, these examples of early December cold make pretty gloomy reading. The winter of 1981-2 was the coldest since 1905. In the winter of 1967-8 February was cold and snowy, and in 1981-2 after the coldest December since 1890, the first half of January featured a cold spell that set a British record of -27.2C (-17F) at Braemar, Grampian, and a new English record of -26.1C (-15F) at Newport, Shropshire.

Forecast, page 22

Sheep farmer saved by igloo

By PETER DAVENPORT

A SHEEP farmer survived 27 hours of driving blizzards and temperatures of -20C by building a makeshift igloo. Howard Stevenson told last night how he built his life-saving shelter after falling into a snowdrift in the Yorkshire Dales while searching for his missing sheepdog, Sly.

Mr Stevenson, aged 56, was unable to scramble out of the snowdrift after his waterproof leggings froze stiff. He was so well hidden in his igloo that rescuers, alerted by his anxious wife, passed within feet of his shelter without noticing it. It was only when one of them prodded a walking stick into the snow cave that they found Mr Stevenson.

Last night he was recovering in Harrogate district hospital, where he was taken by helicopter from RAF Leconfield. Doctors said that he had survived his ordeal because his makeshift igloo had trapped his body heat. He was wet and cold but his condition was otherwise satisfactory.

Mr Stevenson had set out from his home at Lofthouse, at the foot of the Yorkshire Dales,

soon after 10am on Saturday to check on 50 ewes, which are part of the flock he manages on 3,000 acres of Sean Moor. With wind gusting at up to 70mph driving the snow into blizzards, he soon lost sight of his dog and it was while searching for him that he fell into the snowdrift some two miles from his home.

From his hospital bed last night Mr Stevenson said "I thought the best thing to do was to pull blocks of snow on top of myself to make an igloo. I just stayed put and hoped that someone would find me. I didn't go to sleep because I knew that if I did I probably would not wake up again."

Mr Stevenson made one attempt to escape from his igloo 24 hours after leaving home but found that his waterproofs were frozen. He was unaware that a search operation involving police, mountain rescue teams and the RAF helicopter had started. Andrew Ball, the RAF winchman who hauled Mr Stevenson into the helicopter for the journey to hospital, said that he probably would not have survived for much longer in the freezing conditions.

Hurd's son airlifted to hospital

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, whose Oxfordshire home was cut off by 4ft snowdrifts, called for police and ambulance help yesterday when his son Philip, aged seven, was taken ill with suspected appendicitis.

A police helicopter, with an ambulance paramedic on board, flew to Mr Hurd's home at Westwell. Philip was airlifted to the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford.

Snow maker

In Rochester the cold snap turned a Dickensian Christmas festival into a white one, rendering redundant a snow-making machine the council had hired at a cost of thousands of pounds. Rochester council had brought in the machine to give an authentic touch to the celebrations. The machine arrived only hours before the snow began to fall.

Explorer's woe

Geoff Somers, who led an international expedition across Antarctica, was stranded yesterday. Mr Somers, aged 40, of Keswick, in the Lake District, planned to take his 12th sled to the Scott of the Antarctic museum for a display, but he had to abandon the trip after he awoke to find himself snowed in.

Freeze phone

A British Telecom network fault put the Automobile Association's national free call number out of action as hundreds of motorists tried to dial for help. Last night the AA advised members to call 0345-887766, until the service was restored.

Firemen hurt

Eight firemen at Scarborough were taken to hospital suffering from toxic fumes inhaled while tackling a fire caused by driving rain which flooded into the Alton hotel and short-circuited a cable. A seminar of 20 geologists was interrupted and the hotel was evacuated.



First snow: Portia Wassell, aged two, discovering the joys of winter at the Escot estate, near Exeter

Drivers urged to stay with car

By DAVID YOUNG

THE police and motoring organisations are agreed: "Unless your journey is really necessary, don't venture out when there is the prospect of snow."

Both the RAC and the AA yesterday battled to deal with the thousands of emergency calls as their 0800 free phone lines broke down. They had to rely on their network of local offices and messages relayed by police forces.

The advice for drivers is: □ Make sure you have adequate warm clothing and footwear in the car and a travelling rug or sleeping bag. It is also advisable to take hot and cold drinks and some food.

to maintain the car's heat. If you are stuck in the snow make sure the exhaust pipe is clear so fumes do not come back in the car and suffocate passengers.

□ The car should be topped up with petrol, and the windscreen washers — for front and back — should be filled before setting out on a journey.

□ Take a powerful torch, a shovel and a piece of old carpet to use under the wheels if stuck on an icy patch. A tow rope and a set of battery jump leads should also be put in the boot.

□ Carry a piece of coloured material to put on the car's aerial. This will help helicopters spot stranded

□ If you are stuck in the snow, a piece of rough sacking can be put under the car's front wheels to stabilise the car. Leave one window open for ventilation. Do not leave the car unless you see a house and know the area.

□ Make sure the tyres are well inflated and be very careful on ice. Snow chains are only useful if there is a lot of ice. If used in the wrong conditions they can damage the vehicle.

The police also suggest that stranded drivers should remember that newspapers and maps can be used to provide emergency insulation and that packed suitcases in the boot will contain clothing that will keep you

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January, 1991.

Counties' call for districts to go exposes Tory division

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

DEEP divisions between Conservative local government leaders will be exposed this week when county councils call for the abolition of the district councils.

Shire Tories have finally lost patience with their colleagues in the districts, who last week renewed their campaign for the abolition of county councils and the devolution of their powers to the 333 district councils in England and Wales. Until now, leaders of the 47 English and Welsh county councils have tried to remain aloof from the debate.

The announcement by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, however, that he is to review local government structure along

with the poll tax has now made them act. Leaders of the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils have been amazed at the lack of resistance over their campaign for the abolition of the counties, under the slogan "closer to the people". Last week, Roy Thomason, the district councils' leader, said that the time of county government in England and Wales had passed, and that there was no excuse for keeping county councils alive as "museum pieces".

Some leading shire Tories, notably Tony Hart, leader of Kent county council, have urged the Tory leadership of the Association of County Councils to fight back. John Chatfield, chairman of the association, has been reluctant to join a bare-knuckle political fight with the districts, preferring to retain a diplomatic stance by offering talks on the future of local government.

At a meeting this week, he will be told that fellow Conservatives on county councils feel that counties must now fight for their survival. The arrival at the environment department of Mr Heseltine, a noted supporter of single-tier local government, has alarmed many Tories in the counties.

They will now call for the creation of one tier of local government, based on the counties, going much further than they have to date. Last week, they issued a carefully worded defence of county government and described the districts' campaign as "delusive".

Even as the counties prepare to stiffen their resistance, however, the districts are planning to outflank them by appealing to traditional loyalties. District council leaders believe that counties such as Avon, Humberside and Cleveland are deeply unpopular and could easily be abolished if there was no longer a need to draw county boundaries on the basis of administrative convenience.

Mr Thomason said yesterday that the abolition of county councils should be accompanied by a return of traditional counties such as Rutland, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Huntingdonshire. "We hope that, as MP for Huntingdon, John Major, the prime minister, will welcome the chance to take his rightful title as MP for Huntingdonshire," he added.

If Mr Heseltine does decide to abolish county councils, however, there is a further obstacle to be overcome by those who want to restore traditional counties. The post office has, so far, refused to stop using the present county names in addresses.



Hart has urged county councils to fight back

Costs close nation's leading bottle bank

By DAVID YOUNG

BRITAIN'S best used bottle bank, the receptacle of the royal empties when the Prince of Wales spends his family holiday on the Isles of Scilly, has become a victim of its own success.

The bank was given a British Glass award this year because it collected more bottles per head of population than anywhere else, its success owing much to the influx of tourists and a local council campaign to keep the island as unspoiled as possible.

Councillors, however, have voted to abandon the recycling scheme because it costs too much money. The bottle bank is filling up so quickly that the cost of sending it by sea to the mainland is £100 a month.

The decision is a setback for Friends of the Earth, the environmental group, which has launched Britain's biggest recycling campaign aimed at cutting domestic waste by a third from 18 million tonnes over the next decade.

The glass industry has already presented an award to Levens council for becoming the first authority to recycle 15,000 tonnes of glass as well as its award to the Scilly Isles.

Last-ditch plea for photographic pioneer's home

£310,000 is needed to save the house where many eminent Victorians were photographed. Simon Tait reports

THE home of Britain's great pioneer portrait photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, where many of the great Victorian artists and scientists were immortalised on film, will be demolished at the end of the month unless £310,000 can be raised to save it. An appeal launched in August to buy the Isle of Wight house from developers has brought in only £700.

Mrs Cameron was the wife of a coffee planter. She bought two villas at Freshwater in 1860 and turned them into a mansion, named Dimbola Lodge. Three years later her daughter gave her a camera.

Nearly all her pictures were taken there and she became, in the words of Colin Ford, curator of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, "perhaps the greatest photographer we have produced, certainly one of the top six". One of her photographic prints was sold



Julia Margaret Cameron's home at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight, which faces demolition and development

recently at Christie's for £12,000. "For 50 years everybody who was anybody, from the Royal Family

to the poet laureate, took their holidays on the Isle of Wight. Mrs Cameron was at the centre of the smart set

which she photographed, and her home was at the heart of British Victorian society," Mr Ford said.

The house stood on the edge of Alfred Lord Tennyson's Farringford Estate, a celebrities' row; Charles Dar-

win and later Jenny Lind lived at Redoubt House; William Makepeace Thackeray lived at The Pannells; George Frederick Watts and his wife Ellen Terry lived at The Briary; Terrace House was built by the poet laureate, for his brother.

Mrs Cameron built a studio in the house and there photographed her neighbours and other luminaries such as Sir John Herschel, Robert Browning and Anthony Trollope.

After the second world war the house was divided into two again and renamed Cameron House and Dimbola. Earlier this year Cameron House was bought by SML Developments and in August planning permission was given for its demolition. After a last-minute campaign the developers agreed to sell Cameron House to a newly created Julia Margaret Cameron Trust, which plans to turn it into a museum, library and study centre. Although the deadline has been extended by a month the developers say they cannot wait any longer.

Hopes that a national body such as the Science Museum could come to the rescue have been dashed. "National institutions don't have that kind of money available," Mr Ford said.

NUMBER X. OF SWEET FAREWELLS (AND SWEETER BEGINNINGS).

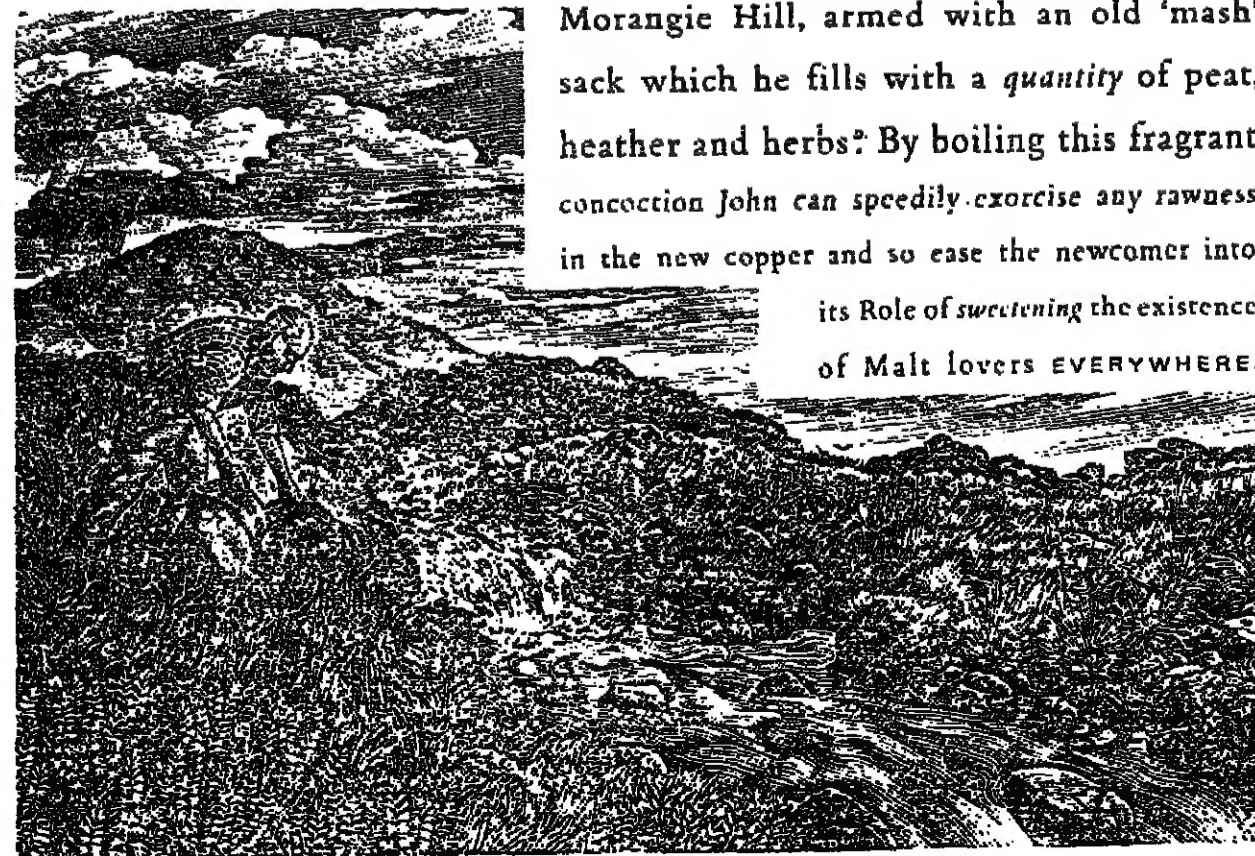
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John Murray is a Seasoned Observer* of the effects of Time and Change upon the Men, and upon the whisky which his skill helps to coax from Ross-shire Barley and Spring Water; (to John falls the duty of WELCOMING in the new Distillation*). Over the years he must occasionally ACCOMMODATE a significant



newcomer at the Distillery, in the elegant swan-necked shape of the New Still. The replacement* of these Distillery work-horses involves John in a ritual known as 'Sweetening The Still'. This sends him away up the Morangie Hill, armed with an old 'mash' sack which he fills with a quantity of peat, heather and herbs*. By boiling this fragrant concoction John can speedily exorcise any rawness in the new copper and so ease the newcomer into

its Role of sweetening the existence of Malt lovers EVERYWHERE.

*HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

A. An Overtaken Photographers
FORM OFFICIATES AT ALL
ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITIES -
EMOTIONAL EVENTS, GIVEN THAT
THE MEN OFFER ON AVERAGE
SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND
PRACTISING THREE CRAFT.

B. An Stillman, BY MOST 10000
PRECISELY WHEN THE STILL HAS
ACQUIRED THE CHARACTER AND
CLARITY OF NEW MALT THIS HE
WILL THEN DISPOSED THE MALT.

C. REPLACING A STILL IS A
PARTICULARLY DISRUPTIVE EVENT
AT GLENMORANGIE, AS IT INVOLVES
THE PAUSING OF THE STILL-HOUSE
DOOR. BUT THEN THE DISTILLERS
DOES LOBBY FROM THE HIGHEST
STILLS IN SCOTLAND - BRUNNING
THAT ONLY THE PUREST VAPOURS
ARE TO CONDENSE INTO THE
GLENMORANGIE MALT OF TAIN.

D. SWEETENING THE STILL
OCCURS DURING 'THE SILENT
SEASON' - AUSTRIAN - WHEN PEAT
AND HEATHER ARE ESPECIALLY
'BLOOMING.'

Ershad seeks to stage comeback by the ballot box

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

HUSSAIN Mohammad Ershad, who was forced to resign as president of Bangladesh six days ago after a mass uprising against him, announced yesterday that he would attempt a comeback in elections due within 12 weeks.

The former general, who seized power eight years ago, has not dared venture outside his heavily guarded house since he quit. Yesterday, 20,000 people marched through the capital demanding his arrest on charges of corruption and suppression of democracy.

He may be a hated figure now, but moods change fast in Bangladesh. Mr Ershad seems to believe that voters will look to him for a measure of stability if the country sinks even deeper into chaos in the run-up to elections. But few people give him much chance of a comeback without substantial vote-rigging by political and military supporters.

Opposition demands for his arrest are being made without any serious expectation that the generals who call the shots in Bangladesh would tolerate the prosecution of one of their

own. Besides, a corruption trial would seriously embarrass some serving generals who demand, among other perquisites, hefty commissions for pushing through government contracts.

Although many junior officers oppose Mr Ershad, he remains close to most generals, despite their bringing about his downfall. They feared the uprising could turn into a revolution in support of an independent government, threatening their traditional dominant role.

Bangladesh is in a more desperate economic plight than usual. Practically every factory has been closed for weeks because of the two-month uprising, and most banks suspended operations a week ago. Railway lines have been torn up and a nationwide transport strike brought the last semblance of economic activity to a halt. Since General Ershad resigned, government has barely functioned, although attempts will be made this week to get people back to work and put the administration on its feet.

The key question is whether

one of the world's poorest countries is heading for martial law again. Bangladesh was under military rule for four years from 1975, and again for four years from 1982. It has been run directly or indirectly by the military for 15 of its 19 years as an independent state.

The election campaign will lead to severe instability, with the risk that promised elections will have to be abandoned. Now the joint objective of getting rid of Mr Ershad has been accomplished, opposition parties will compete for dominance. That means mobilising the biggest crowds, which could lead to severe disruption of law and order. If elections cannot be held on time, martial law will be almost inevitable.

Mr Ershad will make the most of the fact that the two main opposition groups are led by women — Sheikh Hasina Wazed, of the Awami League, and Begum Khalida Zia, of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Bangladesh is not a fundamentalist Islamic country, but there is a strong strain of religious conservatism.



Lennon remembered: fans of John Lennon placing flowers and assorted mementoes alongside a makeshift memorial in Central Park, New York, at the weekend on the tenth anniversary of his death. His Manhattan home remains a shrine, and hundreds

of fans congregated to mark the occasion (AP reports from New York). On Saturday, Lennon was also remembered with spontaneous tributes in Los Angeles, a plaque in Liverpool, and a rendition of "Yesterday" on Moscow television. In New York, hundreds of

Lennon fans went to Strawberry Fields opposite the Manhattan apartment building where the singer was shot dead by a deranged fan on December 8, 1980. "Strawberry Fields" played softly. Others left flowers outside the building for his widow, Yoko Ono.

Shuttle mission caught short

Nasa is cutting short the shuttle Columbia's problem-plagued 10-day mission by one day because of a plumbing block in the spacecraft's waste water removal system which has blocked the crew's lavatory (Our Foreign Staff writes). The seven-man crew stopped using the lavatory and used plastic containers and empty drink cartons instead.

Columbia is now scheduled to land in California at 9:54 pm local time today (05:54 GMT tomorrow). The mission had been scheduled to end tomorrow night local time. The mishap did not hinder makeshift observations with the \$150 million Astro-1 astronomical observatory mounted in Columbia's cargo bay.

Meanwhile, the Galileo spacecraft skimmed by the Earth at a distance of 590 miles at 64,500 mph, 13 months into a six-year voyage to Jupiter taking pictures and exploring with instruments. The Galileo, launched last year, used Earth's gravity on Saturday as a slingshot to increase its speed by 11,600 mph.

Troops take over

Hyderabad — The Indian Army took control of Hyderabad after 67 people died and more than 100 were injured in some of the worst clashes between Hindus and Muslims in half a century. Soldiers in armoured cars moved into the city's Muslim-majority old quarters after thousands of Hindus began fleeing from their homes in panic following overnight attacks by Muslim mobs. (AFP)

Detainees to sue

Hong Kong — Lawyers for 111 Vietnamese boat people freed last week after 18 months in Hong Kong detention camps said they would sue the government for heavy damages for false imprisonment. The move follows the government's climbdown in the face of an international outcry over their case. Freed by the Hong Kong courts last month, they were immediately re-arrested as illegal immigrants.

Canadian saint

Rome — The Pope has announced the creation of the first native Canadian saint, Margherite d'Youville, who was born in 1701 and died in 1771 after a life dedicated to charitable works, the establishment of a hospital for the poor, and the foundation of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal. Mother d'Youville was beatified in 1959 by Pope John XXIII.

Back in power

Bangkok — The Thai Prime Minister, Chatichai Choonhavan, has been reappointed to head a new government one day after he resigned because of mounting political pressure. Mr Chatichai, aged 71, who in 1988 became the country's first democratically elected prime minister for 12 years, promised to administer Thailand with honesty and higher efficiency. (AFP)

Novelist dies

New York — The Cuban novelist, Reinaldo Arenas, who was jailed as a "social misfit" for his anti-Castro stance and whose macabre work often focused on the death of the artist, has died aged 47. His literary agent, Thomas Colchie, said the writer had died in his Manhattan apartment, apparently from a combination of pills and alcohol. (Reuters)

Duvalier factions resurface in Haiti

FROM HOWARD FRENCH IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

A WEEK before national elections in Haiti, there are strong fears of a violent attempt to block democratic change. These fears have been heightened by a grenade attack on a campaign rally and a sharp increase in anti-election comments by supporters of the deposed Duvalier family.

A mysterious night-time attack on Wednesday on a rally for the popular leftist priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, widely seen as the leading candidate for president, was a reminder of the country's violent 1987 elections, which were cancelled when 34 people were murdered, most of them as they queued to vote.

This year, more than three million Haitians — 80 percent of the eligible voters — registered for the December 16 elections. Many said they were now weighing their interest in voting against concerns for their personal safety.

International human rights organisations have renewed their criticisms of the government's seeming failure to investigate fully a series of politically-related violent attacks this year and to implement a warrant for the arrest of Roger Lafontant, a key figure in the 29-year Duvalier family dictatorship.

Security precautions for the elections are described as light and rights activists allege that policemen at the election headquarters fail to carry out security checks.

Since the emergence of Father Aristide as the leading contender for the presidency, many observers say the Duvalierists' resolve to block elections, for fear that they would be brought to justice, has grown strongly.

Columnists and radio commentators in the Duvalierist media have increased their attacks against the legality of the electoral council's rejection of several far-right candidates. (NYT)

Ranchers on trial for Mendes killing

FROM LOUISE BYRNE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

TWO men accused of murdering Chico Mendes, the trade union and conservation activist, go on trial in Brazil this week, marking the final phase in a chapter which revolutionised the international ecology movement.

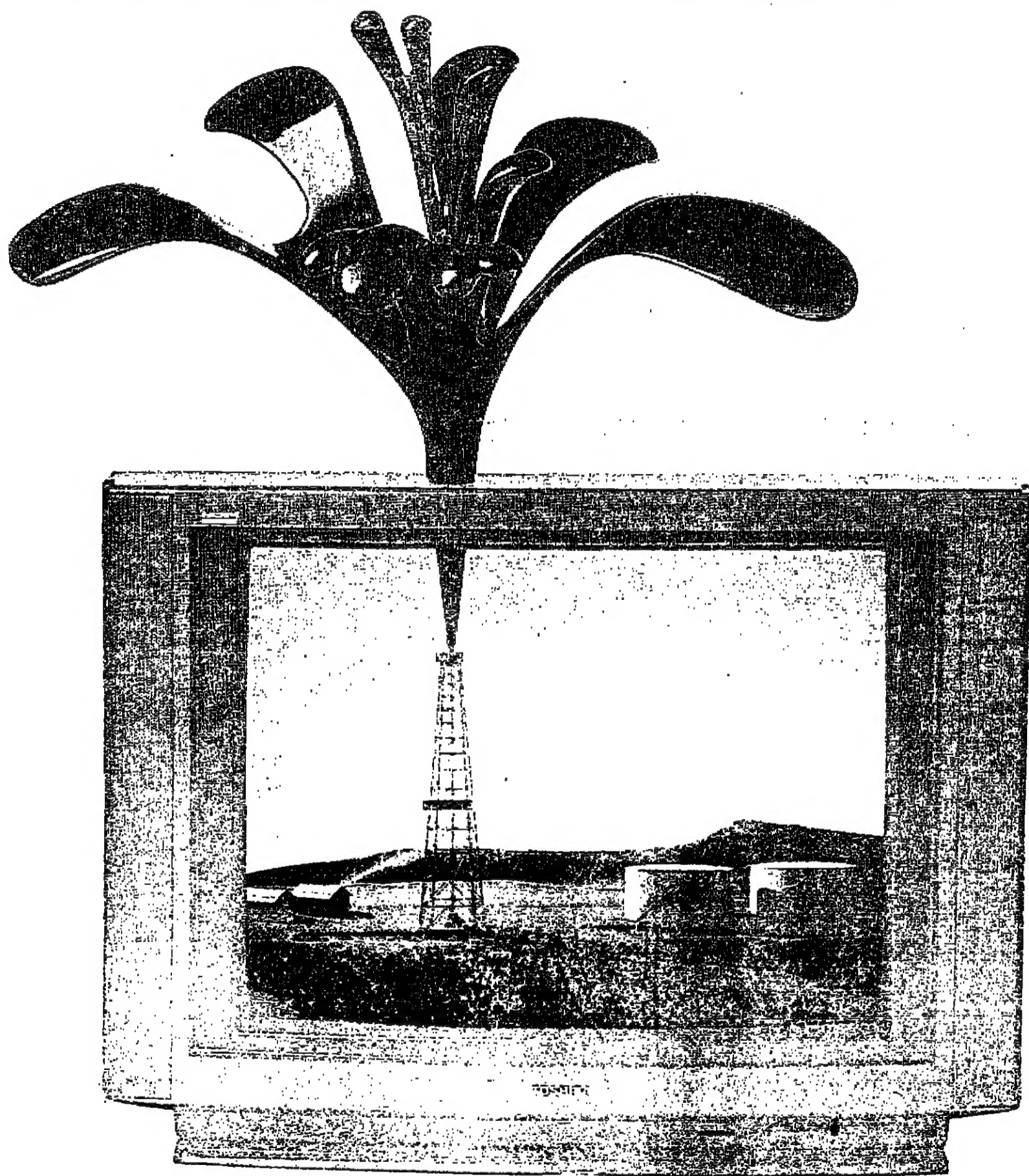
A ranch owner, Darly Alves da Silva, aged 56, is accused of ordering the murder of Mendes in December 1988, and his son, Darci, aged 23, is accused of carrying it out. A third suspect is still at large. The trial of the two men who, in the months before the death of Mendes, openly opposed his battle to preserve the rainforest, starts on Wednesday.

Ecologists, trade unionists, politicians and journalists have begun arriving in the eastern Amazonian town of Xapuri for the hearing which will be broadcast on Brazilian television. The only hotel is full and extra food, drinking water and telephone lines are being brought in to meet the increased demand. With typical Amazonian exaggeration, the trial is being called the "trial of the century". The death of Mendes al-

most two years ago was the last in a sequence of events which gave the world ecology movement an unprecedented impetus. Months before Mendes, aged 44, died, a record hot summer in America gave new urgency to the implications of the greenhouse effect, while in Amazonia, satellite images showed the devastation of that year's unusually savage dry season fires. His death galvanised ecologists into action and forced the Brazilian government to improve its conservation efforts.

However, some see the trial as a show case where justice may not be served, even if the accused are convicted, and where Brazil's dismal human rights record is ignored.

Lawyers for the Mendes family are likely to call for the re-opening of an enquiry to investigate allegations of a larger conspiracy by land owners to murder Mendes. The defence wants the trial to be moved because it says that local and international attention means the accused will not be given a fair trial.



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Husain calls on Arab states to join in Gulf dialogue

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING Husain of Jordan yesterday called on all Arab states to begin a dialogue on the Gulf conflict to run alongside the planned direct talks between the United States and Iraq.

"We call for an Arab-Arab dialogue that is parallel to the American-Iraqi dialogue on the Gulf crisis because the issue is one of prime concern to the Arabs," King Husain told an army graduation ceremony.

At the same time Iraq moved rapidly to dispel the notion it would now be a soft touch in the talks with the Americans. It set a date for the talks - January 12 - that Washington said was unacceptable, repeated threats against Israel and told President Bush and James Baker, Secretary of State, that any attempt to drive Iraq from Kuwait would lead to a conflict more drawn out and destructive than the Vietnam war.

Despite Baghdad's tough words, there was a flurry of reports in the Arab press claiming Iraq would soon make a partial withdrawal from Kuwait, underlining hopes that Saddam Hussein will now see the best deal he can get rather than face the dismal prospect of trying to hold on to the emirate.

King Husain, who has worked tirelessly to try to effect a peaceful solution but is accused by Iraq's opponents of being too sympathetic to Baghdad, urged that a Arab mediator be selected to sit down with both sides. He said it was hard to see why the Arabs maintained an "embargo on di-

ologue" while both the US and EC were ready to talk to Baghdad. Echoing the repeated views of President Saddam, who he met in Baghdad last week, the King said that a solution must take into account all Middle East conflicts, a view flatly rejected by Washington. He claimed that the chances of solving the Gulf conflict and the Palestinian problem were better now than ever. "Let us seize this opportunity or we will be cursed by God and by history," he said.

The Jordanian leader also urged an international peace conference as soon as United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kuwait began to be implemented.

"It is high time for all to defend international legitimacy by upholding it, and for the Security Council to show that it applies one and not two yard sticks," the king said. "The convening of this conference would put an end to conflicts in our region, pave the way for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in it and strengthen peace and security."

The king claimed that the Arabs still had time to launch a rescue operation and added that compromise was one of the principles in the search for any settlement of the Gulf conflict. His call came amid reports of a flurry of Arab diplomacy behind the scenes and an attempt by Yemen, December's chairman of the United Nations Security Council to call a new Arab summit to try to breach the divisions which divided the last one held in Cairo in August.

There have been rumours that Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has been trying to convene a meeting in Algiers between President Saddam and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. A PLO diplomat said Saddam had agreed to attend but King Fahd first wanted Iraq to announce it was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

President Chadli of Algeria met a Saudi envoy for the second time in four days on Saturday for talks on the confrontation in the Gulf.

President Bush's offer of direct talks, and Saddam Hussein's decision to release all of his hostages, has fuelled speculation that both sides are prepared for concessions.

"Saddam will wriggle and wriggle so he doesn't have to war over Kuwait," commented Brian Pridham, director of the Gulf Arab studies department at Exeter University. "And the Kuwaitis now won't really expect a hundred per cent restoration of their territory and all the royal family. They can offer something in the guise of Arab solidarity. It's all very well for them to breathe fire now, but in the end they'll do what the US imposes on them."



King Husain: call for Arab dialogue



Writing off the wall: an Israeli border policeman blacking out anti-Israeli slogans and graffiti in Shuafat refugee camp yesterday on the third anniversary of the Palestinian intifada. Many parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are under curfew

Jewish settlers adopt siege mentality

Richard Owen looks at the conflicting interests of Jews and Palestinians in the occupied lands that Israelis are claiming as their own

DINA Shalit is an American-born West Bank settler with missionary fervour. Defying three years of Palestinian intifada, she asserts the Jewish right to land that much of the world regards as occupied Arab territory.

"We are the pioneers of the Nineties," Mrs Shalit says. "Our settlements offer clean air, good schools and a suburban lifestyle." Maale Adumim, near Jerusalem, and Ariel, near Nablus, are the settlements that have proved most attractive to Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Settlers' leaders like Mrs Shalit are aware of the sensitivity of the issue and emphasise the relatively small numbers of Soviet Jews who have arrived in the West Bank so far. None the less, they make it clear that in the near future they expect large numbers of Russians to arrive as the housing shortage in pre-1967 Israel makes itself felt.

The Israeli population is expected to double to 20,000 by 1993, a prospect which horrifies Israeli liberals and Western governments, but which the settlers look forward to with confidence and pride.

As Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, holds talks with President Bush, the Jewish settlers of the West Bank are

making it clear that whatever the outside pressures, or the internal pressures of the Arab intifada, they have no intention of leaving - ever. On the contrary, many settlers believe they will one day displace the Arab population altogether, if it becomes clear that Arabs and Jews cannot live alongside one another in "the land of Israel" (a term used by the Israeli right to refer to both Israel proper and the occupied territories).

"Our presence here is irreversible," says Marc Zell, a spokesman for the settlers. He announced at a press conference held by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria (the term used by many Israelis to refer to the West Bank) that the number of Jewish settlers had increased by 30 per cent over the past three years to reach nearly 100,000.

Settlers' leaders said that some 4,000 Jews had been injured because of attacks on them by Arabs using stones or petrol bombs since the intifada began. The government, however, has helped the settlers to build new

roads bypassing "hostile areas", and they proudly display a map of the West Bank dotted with clusters of settlements that they say are needed for security reasons as well as to provide a "decent lifestyle" and in some cases relatively easy access to jobs inside Israel itself.

In reality, the settlers live under siege, and run a gauntlet of stones every day, with their children bussed to school in convoys protected by the Israeli army. But once inside the fence at a settlement like Maale Adumim, they live in modern housing, with neat and expensively-watered suburban lawns - a far cry from the dusty drabness of nearby Arab villages.

Settlers maintain that they wish to live as "good neighbours" with the Arabs. But the only Palestinians to be seen on the settlements are labourers, and there is frequent friction between settlers and Palestinian communities. Nearly all settlers carry guns, and are increasingly using them as the Palestinians resort to firearms. For Palestinians, Soviet Jewish

immigration is in an explosive issue. Of the 150,000 Russian Jews who have arrived so far this year, only one per cent have gone to West Bank settlements. None the less, settlers' leaders are confident that, thanks to Soviet emigration, Jewish communities throughout the West Bank will continue to expand.

This places the Shamir government in a dilemma. Many members of the administration, including Mr Shamir himself, regard Jewish settlement on the West Bank as desirable for both ideological and security reasons. But the United States opposes the use of Western financial aid for the building of new settlements.

Instead, Mr Ariel Sharon, the hawkish housing minister, has focused on the expansion of existing settlements and the building of 13 new settlements along the "green line" between Israel and the West Bank.

Mr Sharon is also encouraging Soviet Jews to settle in Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed.

The Arab and Jewish populations of east Jerusalem are now roughly equal, at 150,000, leading to the Palestinian charge that Mr Shamir wants to make the whole of Jerusalem Jewish.

The occupied territories are home to 1.75 million Palestinians, who would have to be either deprived of their civil rights or deported if the predominantly Jewish character of Israel were to be preserved. The official policy of the Jewish settler movement therefore remains co-existence, with Arabs and Jews "sharing the land". But given the growing militancy of both sides it is hard to see how a compromise can be found when the trend on both sides is towards an outright claim to the land that both Jews and Arabs regard as theirs by right.

Violent start to intifada's new year

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

THE start of the fourth year of the Palestinian intifada uprising in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip was marked yesterday with more bloodshed. Two Palestinians were shot and one died later. Since the intifada was launched three years ago more than 1,000 people have died.

Yesterday Mourdi al-Madani, aged 27, became the first victim of the uprising's fourth year when Israeli soldiers fired at stone-throwing Palestinians defying a curfew in the Gaza Strip village of Beni Subaila.

Relatives said Mr al-Madani was shot at close range. The army said he died after a struggle with border policemen. He was shot in the right thigh. Hospital officials said the bullet severed an artery. The army said another Palestinian was also shot in the leg in a

separate clash. Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip the anniversary was marked by scattered tyre-burning and stone-throwing.

A sullen quiet prevailed throughout much of the territories, the result of a general strike called by the intifada leaders and army curfews that kept as many as a million Palestinians indoors.

Slogans on walls in Bethlehem called for 1991 to be "the year of destroying the enemy". They were signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Another slogan signed by the Islamic Jihad group said: "The language of stones, knives and bullets is the only language the enemy will understand."

Meanwhile, leaders of the orthodox right-wing Tehiya party denied reports that the party was planning to include the expulsion

of Arabs from the occupied territories in its platform. The reports came as Yuval Neeman, the party leader who is also science and energy minister, gave a warning that Palestinians who take up arms against Israel would suffer the same fate as those who fled or were driven from their homes in 1948.

Israelis sue for spy-book damages

Ottawa - The Israeli government is suing a Canadian publisher and the authors of a best-selling book detailing the activities of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, and is seeking all the profits from the book, as well as about £800,000 in damages (Agence-France Presse reports).

Israel failed to block publication of *By Way of Deception*, written by Victor Ostrovsky, a Mossad agent from 1984 to 1986, and Claire Hoy, a Canadian journalist, last September when it was published by the Stoddart Publishing Company.

Israel contends that Mr Ostrovsky wrongfully appropriated documents belonging to the Israeli government, allowing him to obtain confidential information, which the suit alleges he copied into a private journal.

The Israeli government also says that the author broke a vow of secrecy he took as a Mossad agent.

Israel has denied most of the assertions in the book, which has sold more than 450,000 copies in the United States alone and has been translated into several languages.

Anti-war protests

Chicago - Several thousand anti-war demonstrators, carrying placards and cardboard coffins, gathered here to protest at American policy in the Gulf, shouting "No blood for oil." Speakers condemned the buildup of troops in Saudi Arabia and urged demonstrators around the country to prepare for a march on Washington on January 26. Smaller demonstrations were held in Washington, New York, Milwaukee and elsewhere. (AP)

Air raid advice

Baghdad - The director of Iraq's civil defence has told Iraqis to keep calm and strictly follow instructions during possible air raids. In an interview broadcast on television in Baghdad, Waal Hammoudi said that the Iraqi people had enough experience during the war with Iran in 1980-88 to deal with raids. Mr Hammoudi did not say directly that attacks might be mounted by the American-led multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait exodus

Manama - The number of Kuwaitis fleeing their occupied country into Saudi Arabia has fallen sharply amid signs that the Gulf conflict may be resolved soon, a Kuwaiti official said. Only 23 Kuwaitis crossed the border post at Al-Khafji in northeastern Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Half of Kuwait's 800,000 nationals have fled the country for other states in the Gulf since the Iraqi invasion on August 2. (AFP)

Medicine plea

Baghdad - Iraq called on the Swiss government yesterday to release frozen assets so that it could buy medicine needed to save children. The health minister, Abdel-Saleem Mohammed Saeed, said the freezing of funds prevented payments to Swiss firms contracted to supply medicine. Shipments of medicine to Iraq are not forbidden under the United Nations sanctions but are reduced by side effects of the embargo. (Reuters)

US stalls over UN linkage

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council is scheduled to meet again today to discuss a draft resolution linking talks on the Gulf confrontation with the Palestinian issue.

The United States is threatening to veto any resolution that mentions an international peace conference on the Middle East and, at the weekend, it forced a rare procedural motion to delay a vote until after further negotiations.

America is eager to appear not to be making any concessions to Iraq and is willing only to refer to a future Middle East peace conference in a statement by the president of the Security Council, which would accompany the resolution.

Although Yemen, the council president and sole Arab member of the 15-nation panel, has been trying to force a vote on a draft resolution containing the controversial paragraph, the Americans' Arab allies in the Gulf have been lobbying to tone down the draft to avoid an American veto.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria fear that such a veto on a resolution to protect the Palestinians would strain their alliance with the US against Iraq.

Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said on CBS television yesterday that he was confident that America would reject the proposed conference, which Israel would never attend.

Dates rejected, page 1

Visa letters hitch holds up hostages

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

One of the first British hostages to leave Iraq since President Saddam's edict said yesterday there were still a number of foreigners, including Britons, unable to leave because their Iraqi sponsor organisations would not provide them with the letters needed to secure an exit visa.

The Londoner, aged 36, arrived aboard the daily Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad to Amman, where he immediately went to a telephone to tell his wife that he was free. The Briton, who asked that his name and job not be publicised, had not seen his family since they left Iraq in September.

"I have heard of some people prevented from leaving because their sponsors will not give them letters, but I believe this is a temporary glitch," the Londoner said. "Some Britons have been told by Iraqi companies that they want one representative per firm to stay behind."

The former hostage, the only Briton aboard the Iraqi plane, said that he had secured his seat by telephoning the Baghdad office and had received his visa yesterday morning in less than 30 minutes, instead of the 24 hours usually needed to secure an exit stamp.

He told reporters that when he

shortly before it opened at 8am, there were already five other Britons there, including two from Kuwait.

"The staff were being more helpful than usual," he said. "I think that any delay on getting people out will be caused by the lack of planes, rather than problems getting exit stamps."

The bearded Londoner had been resident in Baghdad for two years and had continued working until his departure.

"Some people have even chosen to stay on because there is still work to be done," he said. "Not everyone is trying to leave in a hurry. There will be those who stay behind for a few weeks, at least."

The Briton said he had left a colleague behind, which was why he did not want to be identified. As the first of the British hostages to arrive in Amman, he was mobbed on arrival by a crowd of more than 60 reporters and cameramen. A group of four German volunteers waiting to fly out to an Iraqi "peace camp" looked on bemused, one holding a wilting bunch of yellow flowers.

Sitting on the tarmac was a British Airways Boeing 767 stocked with 400 bottles of champagne, which has been stranded in Jordan since Friday

because Baghdad will not give it permission to land. "We shall wait for two or three days more to see if enough hostages come through here for us to fly them home," said Derek Ross, an airline spokesman.

Mr Ross said the main purpose of the flight, which includes a medical team of two nurses and a doctor, was to rescue the remaining 55 passengers from British Airways flight 149, which is still stranded at Kuwait airport, where it was caught en route to Madras when the August 2 invasion was launched. There are also 37 British Airways crew members among Westerners still waiting to leave Baghdad.

The former British hostage spoke emotionally of his relief at leaving, but said he had not been surprised to hear the news on the BBC World Service while at his Baghdad home last Thursday afternoon.

"The reason why he freed us is obvious," he said. "Tariq Aziz (the foreign minister) could not go to Washington for talks until we had been set free."

The Briton said there had been parties among the British expatriate community to celebrate the news, and that another had been planned for yesterday at lunchtime. He said angrily that he would never go back to a country which had taken his

family hostage. "Life was pretty bloody awful," he said. "My wife and kids (aged two-and-a-half and nine months) left in early September and, of course, I did not know whether I would ever see them again. The worst moment was in mid-November, when it seemed likely there was going to be a war in the next few days. There was one day in particular when a lot of people felt it was going to happen that night."

The jubilant former hostage said that 400 foreigners had received exit visas on Saturday and that the problem of securing seats on planes could mount as more were issued. Iraqi Airways has cut the number of daily flights to Amman from two to one.

"I am out earlier than the others because someone in my office suggested that I phone the airline, and when I did they told me they had one last seat left, although there were ten empty on the plane," the Briton said. "Many British people have not thought of trying to get out this way because they automatically assumed the planes were all full."

Also on his flight from Baghdad was Gissi Sgurdsson, Iraq's only Icelandic hostage, formerly chief doctor at the main hospital in Kuwait city, who was taken under the diplomatic wing of the Swedish embassy in Baghdad.

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Walesa battles to cast off mentality of the barricades

A NEWS agency picture, all dots and smudge, shows two tired men in a crowd, leaving the Gdansk shipyard. Their arms are linked. On the right, Tadeusz Mazowiecki resembles a sickly man, in need of support. Lech Walesa, his prop, has his head cocked upwards for the photographers. The pose is familiar, conveying the certainty of victory. The back of the picture bears the usual laconic note to editors: "inconclusive end to Lenin shipyard strike, May 1988".

In reality, it was the end of a dispute that brought the communist authorities to the negotiating table, and the brink of collapse. Mr Walesa knew it then: it is stamped on his face. Mr Mazowiecki, and the newspaper editors, did not.

There seemed little doubt that Mr Walesa would emerge victorious last night in the Polish presidential poll. He has trounced Mr Mazowiecki, whom he chose as Solidarity's prime minister, and dispatched the surprising challenge from Stanislaw Tyminski.

It has been a Western-style election, the first of its kind in the post-communist world. The issue was Lech Walesa — whether the revolutionary leader is able to make the transition to statesman, and whether he is a dictator-in-waiting or merely the man of determination Poland needs. The tactics of the campaign say much about the man. First, he held back from announcing a programme. "My programme is your programme," he would tell the work-

ers, "because this is your Poland, not Walesa's Poland." Such election patter was not enough.

His team came up with a manifesto. Few people read it. If they had, they would see that Mr Walesa stood for exactly the same policies as his chief first-round rival, Mr Mazowiecki: swift privatisation, Soviet troops out of Poland by the end of 1991, a professional rather than a conscript army, pressure on the West to cancel debts, forward to Europe. In contrast to Mr Mazowiecki, Mr Walesa offered speed and justice. Reform has been too sluggish.

After Mr Tyminski had poached enough votes from Mr Mazowiecki and Mr Walesa to emerge as the Solidarity chief's main rival, the tactics were changed. Phone calls from Gdansk to Warsaw: Mr Tyminski was a threat to the nation, Solidarity had to stick together and vote for Mr Walesa, Mr Mazowiecki should withdraw his resignation and stay in place at least until parliamentary elections.

To Walesa supporters, who had fought an anti-Mazowiecki campaign, it was all rather baffling. The 47-year-old worker — his critics dub him the Great Electrician and say he intends to become General Electric — has been playing the crowd. There is an urge to find scapegoats on the hard road to the market. Mr Walesa is still a revolutionary. If there is a crowd emotion, he must tap it. In 1980, he told strikers "socialism yes, deviations from it

The Solidarity leader's critics say that his move to the presidential palace will unleash a dictator-in-waiting. Roger Boyes weighs up the dissident who came in from the cold

no!" Now the crowd is nastier, venomous about Jews and communists. This unpleasant nationalist wave has helped to carry him from the barricades to the palace.

But the Solidarity chief is not an anti-semitic, nor a crude populist. Now he must quickly discard the crowd, otherwise its ugliness will scar the presidency. He must find other ways of dealing with popular frustration. Mr Walesa's approach to Mr Mazowiecki was more than a tactical bid for votes: it showed that the Solidarity chief was beginning to think like a president. Perhaps then, one should rely on Mr Walesa's fabled political intuition to assert itself.

Halfway through the August 1980 strike in the shipyards, it would have been easy to settle, but Mr Walesa followed his nose and went all out for a free trade union. After his release from internment, he was right not to disappear into the underground struggle, but to stay in the open. If he had not, the struggle against martial law would have turned violent: Mr Walesa earned his Nobel peace prize.

He knew that the communists were edging closer and closer to dialogue. He used the threat of a worker uprising to win a round-table negotiation with the com-

munist. Again, it was Mr Walesa who sensed that Solidarity could lure the formerly stooge Peasant and Democrat parties away from their traditional alliance with the communists. Mr Walesa put a Solidarity-led government into power, and chose the right prime minister. And now, he is right again — Solidarity cannot survive as a governing monolith. Solidarity has indeed become too comfortable in power. For the past year, Poland has in effect been a one-party state.

By forcing himself on the presidency, Mr Walesa has pushed Poland closer to democracy, while making himself seem profoundly anti-democratic. A man, especially a political man, can be right for the wrong reasons.

The Walesa of 1990 is not the swashbuckling electrician of 1980. Then too, he was a little vain and had the rudeness sometimes seen in busy, popular people. In 1980-81, he was unmistakably the creature of the Solidarity movement, without Solidarity, he was a funny little chap always in trouble with the authorities.

During martial law, he was interned for almost a year in an isolated hunting lodge. His Solidarity colleagues were jailed



Pre-poll prayers: Lech Walesa with his son Slawomir at Mass in Gdansk before casting his vote yesterday

together, and grew into a recognisable political class. Mr Walesa, understimulated, and easily bored, was unable to gauge his real importance. Smuggled messages from the Pope helped, but he found himself drifting away from the church hierarchy. As Solidarity chief, his Christian faith convinced him that the union could be both socialist — or rather social democratic — and Christian, since with ten million members it was nothing less than a national movement. Those certainties died in his year of confinement.

He is still a practising Catholic, arguing for the anti-abortion law and religious education. But his relationship with church strategists has changed fundamentally. By the end of martial law, he acted as if Solidarity were his creation. The push for pluralism has forced a divorce between workers and intellectuals. This alliance was probably Solidarity's greatest achievement, defining the terms of civil society under authoritarian rule. Now Mr Walesa attacks intellectuals as backbiting and naive. His intuition may be correct again. Intellectuals are losing their

significance in Central and Eastern Europe, as a new strident middle class emerges from the ruins of the planned economy. But there is a meanness and meanness to it all. To pit workers against their former advisers in the intelligentsia — Mr Mazowiecki among them — is to miss the point and merely provides the crowd with more whipping boys. As a result, Mr Walesa's current team of advisers are a particularly mediocre team, political ingenuities trying to put together a presidency around a narrow Christian-nationalist credo.

Cut free from these advisers, Mr Walesa might just make a good president.

Mr Walesa's critics say that he is dictatorial and that, equipped with a president's power — which includes a guiding role in defence and foreign policy, the right to govern by decree, to dissolve parliaments, and veto legislation — he will lead Poland into a kind of pre-war autocracy.

Personally, Mr Walesa is overbearing. However, he is not a dictator-in-waiting. His weakness is impatience. Poland, sandwiched between a muscular, self-confident Germany, and a disintegrating, introspective Soviet Union, does not need an impulsive leader. Perhaps, Mr Walesa has the makings of a great statesman. Revolutionaries have tended to fail in moving from barricades to palace. For a pragmatist of his calibre, it is not impossible.

Soviet rail disruption hits drive to feed cities

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE task facing Soviet and Western officials as they struggle to feed Russia's cities this winter looks yet more daunting after it emerged yesterday that the railway system was in a chaotic mess. The service was officially described as "catastrophic".

The communist daily *Pravda* said 20,000 containers and 300 wagons were waiting unloaded at railway yards in Moscow. Some of them had been abandoned since July. A total of 23,500 tonnes of goods, including medicine and food, had accumulated.

Western diplomats said the promised dispatch to Russia of Berlin's entire strategic food reserves, worth \$330 million (£150 million), had been complicated by a pile-up of trains at the Soviet-Polish and Polish-German borders, making the use of rail transport virtually impossible. An initial consignment of milk powder and medicine from the

Berlin reserves was handed over to the Soviet military at the weekend for transportation by air. It also became clear that, despite Moscow's reluctance, some food from Germany will be flown into the Soviet Union by German forces.

The *Pravda* article gave some indirect but astonishing evidence of the extent to which food is diverted away from state distribution channels even when it does arrive safely in Moscow warehouses. The paper said 100 wagons of mostly imported meat had been waiting at sidings for two weeks because its supposed recipient, a processing factory in northern Moscow pleaded that it neither had the storage space nor sufficient production facilities.

But as *Pravda* hinted, if there is a shred of truth in these excuses, questions arise about where the meat that is clogging up the factory's shelves and machinery eventually ends up. A moment's glance at city food shops makes clear that the meat is going anywhere except on to the shelves.

The KGB, meanwhile, gave initial details of its campaign to combat the theft of food: in a Tass report it described a failed attempt to smuggle abroad 150 tonnes of milk powder and the discovery in an Uzbekistan ravine of 76 tonnes of stolen rice.

However, Sergei Stankevich, Moscow's liberal deputy mayor, said the drop in supplies from other Soviet regions, rather than diversion, was the main reason for the food shortage which he said had left residents of the city in desperate need. He also cited a fall in the value of the rouble and Moscow's lack of industrial goods with which to barter, as another reason why rural areas were cutting supplies to the capital.

The deputy mayor said Moscow's deprivation also reflected political factors, a delicate reference to the widespread charges that conservative authorities in rural areas, influenced by Ivan Polozkov, the Russian Communist party chief, are mounting a blockade of Moscow.

Mr Stankevich said the cessation or reduction of milk supplies by nine regions had forced the Moscow authorities to cut production at a factory producing baby food, so that its output was available only for sick children. He announced the establishment of a committee to process humanitarian aid in co-operation with the Soviet Red Cross and charity groups. He urged donors to give the authorities maximum advance warning of the contents and arrival dates of their gifts.

● **BONN:** China intends to boost food exports to Moscow to help its neighbour get through the winter, a German newspaper reported yesterday. The business daily *Handelsblatt* quoted Tian Zengpi, a deputy foreign minister, as saying that Peking would ship more food and also increase trade along its long border with the Soviet Union. But Mr Tian said the food would be sold at market prices rather than sent as free aid. (Reuters)

● **Party named:** The Independent Communist Party of Lithuania, which broke ranks with the Kremlin last year, has renamed itself the Democratic Labour party. The party was formed in December last year after a split in the 200,000-member Lithuanian Communist Party. (AP)



Banner of defiance: a demonstrator waving a black flag in Moscow as 5,000 anarchists and radicals demanded the resignation of the Soviet government at the weekend. Last night, 10,000 human rights protesters marched to the notorious Lubyanka headquarters of the KGB

Opposition alleges Serbia poll fraud

From DESSA TREVISAN AND RICHARD BASSETT IN BELGRADE

THE people of the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro turned out in force to cast their votes in local parliamentary and presidential elections yesterday amid allegations of vote-rigging by the communists.

Vuk Draskovic, the leader of Serbia's main opposition party, denounced the communist party for rigging votes in order to ensure that it retained power. Mr Draskovic, the head of the Serbian Renewal Movement, alleged that the vote-rigging could involve as many as 30 per cent of the electorate. Voting had begun two days before the official election date, he claimed. "This is a criminal act," he stated.

Mr Draskovic gave a warning that such tactics would not save the communists, and the opposition parties would unite to reject the results.

The Serbian poll is considered by Western observers, including those from the American state department, to be the most important election in Eastern Europe. The future of Yugoslavia as a political entity hinges on the voting which is taking place against a background of ever-widening differences between the democratically elected governments of the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia and Serbia's communist government, headed by Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbian voters face the choice between anti-communist parties and a powerful Communist party still retaining formidable influence, including complete control of the media, the armed forces, the secret police and the economy.

Though Mr Milosevic, the communist leader, changed the party's name to Socialist recently, its ideology, personnel

and methods remain the same. Mr Draskovic, whose long hair and beard give him an almost biblical appearance, said after he had voted: "We will not accept the results of any votes cast outside the official time, between 7am and 7pm on Sunday." Along with other

Draskovic has been depicted as a "Cetnik leader" bent on civil war. The Cetniks were royalists supporting the king of Yugoslavia during the second world war and fought a bitter, fratricidal war against Marshal Tito's communist partisans.

Yesterday, there was increas-



Slobodan Milosevic, the Communist leader, left, and his main challenger, Vuk Draskovic, casting their votes



opposition leaders, he cited intimidation and the doctored of electoral lists — to include many people long dead — as two of the "most common irregularities".

Despite a ban on campaigning in the 48 hours before polling, communist supporters continued to canvass and intimidate voters right up to the last moment. In the town of Dimitrovgrad, near the Bulgarian frontier, Mr Milosevic's supporters said that, were Mr Draskovic to be elected, all Bulgarians in the area would face deportation.

ing evidence that voting was already taking place in army barracks, police stations and state hospitals, in defiance of the electoral law, on Friday and Saturday.

These irregularities, coupled with the boycott of the election yesterday in Kosovo by 700,000 ethnic Albanian voters, seem certain to increase growing demands for rapid change in Serbia which the election will fail to satisfy.

In contrast to Mr Milosevic, who had reduced his public appearances in recent months as his popularity dwindled, Mr Draskovic has successfully

tapped the growing opposition to one of Europe's last communist strongholds. Mr Milosevic, however, enjoys the support of the army, the last federal institution with any authority.

In an unprecedented interview on the eve of the election, clearly intended to influence the voting, General Veljko Kadijevic, the Yugoslav minister of defence, accused the opposition of being "adventurers".

He said that the army would defend Yugoslavia's existing constitution. General Kadijevic left voters in no doubt as to where the army's sympathies lay. It remains opposed to Western-style reform and committed to socialism, though Western observers note that there are increasing signs of differences within the army general staff.

Latest opinion polls suggest that the presidency of Serbia, which was contested by 32 candidates, will go to Mr Milosevic, who is ahead of his main rival, Mr Draskovic, by a few points.

The same polls indicated, however, that the communists would not secure a majority of the 250 parliamentary seats. Yesterday Mr Draskovic insisted that the local parliamentary election was more important. He said: "Even if Milosevic were to win the presidency, it is the parliament which decides."

But as a result of recently passed laws, Mr Milosevic enjoys as president formidable powers, which include the right to dissolve parliament and declare a state of emergency. He is also the commander-in-chief of the Serbian armed forces.

In Montenegro, the old guard communist leadership appeared set to retain its hold on power.

Hurd will present softer stance on Europe's future

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A SPEECH which at first sight contains no change in policy but in fact marks a political watershed is a rare thing. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is expected to offer such a combination in a speech in Berlin today, setting out Britain's views before the European Community summit in Rome at the weekend.

He may hint that while the government still objects to most of the federalist ideas circulated by Germany, France and Italy, it is unlikely to veto them.

Margaret Thatcher's resignation has not healed Conservative divisions over Europe, but has brought a more pragmatic approach. Mr Hurd will argue Britain's objections to an imposed single currency, a central bank, and steps towards political integration. But it will be clear from his tone that if Britain loses the arguments it will not repeat the 11-1 confrontations of the Thatcher era. John Major's administration will set itself the more limited objective of ensuring that any ideas adopted are practical and workable.

Mr Hurd will emphasise a constructive approach to the summit and the inter-governmental conferences on political and monetary union which open in Rome on Saturday. The government wants to avoid another damaging clash after its isolation at the October summit which led to Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation

and Michael Heseltine's challenge to Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Hurd has argued for some time that Britain should fight its corner "without frightening itself with ogres", a reference to integrationist ideas. This approach has been weakened by the open letter which President Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, sent to Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, on Friday.

One of its proposals was that the European Council (usually called the summit) and the Council of Ministers (consisting of ministers from the 12 governments) should take nearly all decisions by qualified majority vote. Last week Mr Hurd dismissed political union as "a Humpty-Dumpty term meaning what you want it to mean", but the Mitterrand/Kohl proposal belies that description.

If it were adopted, Britain would lose the limited power it has to hold back European integration. At present only decisions essential for the implementation of the internal market are supposed to be taken by majority vote, but this has been stretched to include loosely-related matters.

The October summit underlined Britain's weakness, in that the 11 other heads of government gave directions to the Council of Ministers to prepare for full economic and monetary union, despite Mrs Thatcher's objections.

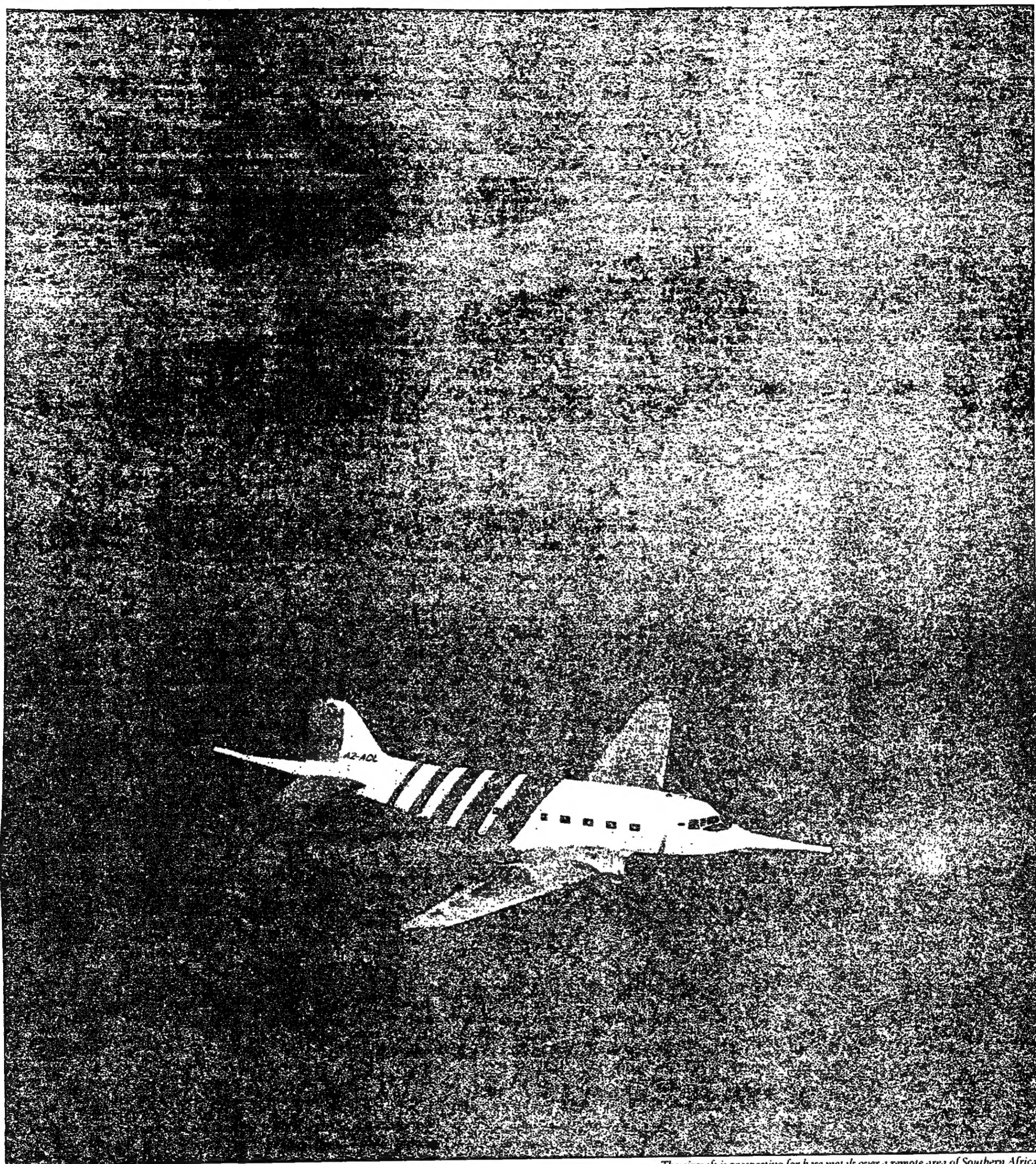
The Mitterrand/Kohl letter was a compromise which balanced France's wish for a powerful central decision-making authority against Bonn's wish to give the European Parliament real power. It removed any hope the British might have had that the two would go to Rome divided. Both powers remain more cautious than Italy, but Rome is likely to fall into line. The letter also called for a strengthened Western European Union linked to the European Community. Britain sees that WEU as the European pillar of NATO, and would not want to weaken that link. It would also want any EC policy to deal with security rather than defence, a distinction which has caused confusion. There is, however, room for compromise.

Another Franco-German proposal was that the conference on political union should lay the basis for European citizenship. Mr Hurd is unlikely to reject the principle but may point out practical difficulties. He is also expected to reiterate Britain's objections to an imposed single currency and its preference for the ecu to be adopted as a 13th currency.

He may try to soften German objections by saying that the European body which would administer this would be politically independent, as Bonn wants to follow the example of its own Bundesbank. Britain also believes that the eco-organisation could evolve slowly into the European central bank which the others have supported. This is unlikely to find support, because the majority want such an organisation before the end of the century.

Mr Hurd is also expected to emphasise that Britain wants another principle written into the political union treaty. No EC legislation should be passed without considering whether it might be better left to national governments, and no legislation should go into greater detail than that needed to ensure EC objectives. Britain believes that this would prevent national governments from being reduced to the status of county councils.

Leading article, page 11



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Labour must aim higher

Ronald Butt

The Labour party has now apparently come to accept so many of the basic economic and social principles established by the Tories, with popular support, that it may almost appear to be electable simply on a protest vote against the aspects of Thatcherism that have been unpopular. Yet the old social attitudes still cling to many of Labour's revised policies and may be the cause of its undoing, particularly now that John Major's prime ministership promises a brand of Toryism that is more sensitive to popular grievances than was Mrs Thatcher's.

The nature of Labour's handicap is illustrated with particular clarity by its education policy, which Neil Kinnock thinks ought to be a winner. On the face of it, there has been a shift away from the excesses of egalitarian theory that still dominated Labour thinking until well after 1983. For example, the commitment to abolish the independent schools has been abandoned. Today they will merely have to meet tighter tests if they are to keep their charitable status, and this turns on what contributions they make to the local community. That presumably means whether or not they will share such facilities as playing fields with state schools. Labour's chief education spokesman, Jack Straw, even concedes that the independent schools are "part of the political landscape", though he admits his dislike of their alleged social divisiveness.

Labour was also formerly hostile to the concept of core curricula and to the Tories' emphasis on improving and testing standards of attainment. Now it waywardly follows the Tory lead, though its chief chosen instrument for improving teaching standards is a characteristically bureaucratic monstrosity, an Education Standards Council (which would be the old educationists' establishment in a new form) to measure schools' performance.

Last week, Labour launched a new, glossy, education policy pamphlet called *Aiming High*. Designed to emphasise its concern for standards, it is lavish in design and colour photography decorating a text that reveals nothing more than was already known. What is really significant about this essay in presentational technique is the careful omission of any reference to a number of intentions that are in fact the real heart of Labour's education policy.

The pamphlet does not, for instance, remind people that, while Labour has repealed the independent schools, it still intends to abolish the state-funded assisted places in those schools which enable 30,000 able children from poorer homes to share in some of the best available education. This facility is particularly important in many inner-city areas where, because of the abolition of grammar schools, the state

can offer these boys and girls only the worst sort of comprehensive, in which the chances of a potentially academic child are damaged by the lack of enough children with similar capabilities and teachers with the appropriate academic background.

Nor does the document draw attention to Labour's declared intention to abolish the Tories' opt-out scheme, which enables parents to send their state school children to independent self-managed schools while being wholly and directly funded by the state.

In other words, Labour is prepared, grudgingly, to allow educational independence (and hence responsibility to parents rather than to "educationalists") to those parents who can manage, even if only just, to pay for their children to go to independent schools. But it denies such choice to parents who want their children to escape by opting out from the local authority schools and from the domination by the part-time local politicians but, more damagingly, of the educational establishment of theorists who were originally responsible for abolishing grammar schools and for imposing comprehensive regardless of local social conditions.

Aiming High jibes at Mrs Thatcher because, both as education secretary and prime minister, she closed more grammar schools and opened more comprehensive than any other minister. The reason, says the document, was that "public pressure was so great". But the pressure on her was not in reality from the public but from the political egalitarians who had determined how teachers should be trained and children taught. It has been their hegemony in the state sector that has driven so many parents who can ill afford it to the independent schools (many of them now former direct grant schools) which did so much to keep objective standards of teaching and learning alive when they were scorned in the local authority schools.

Labour still finds it hard to give due weight to parents' wishes — equality of opportunity, disciplined academic learning for those suited to it, and a genuinely high-quality vocational option for those who want it. Mr Straw recently bemoaned the small number of Oxbridge graduates now becoming teachers compared with the past. But he clearly finds it difficult to envisage the extent to which such graduates are put off, not only by poor pay, but by the depressing teaching conditions in so many state schools. Labour does not understand that the basic attraction of independent schools is not their playing fields and equipment, but their teaching standards. A lingering preference for socialist theory has led the Labour party into the trap of allowing choice in education only to those who can pay for it.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

If you read this, you will know I made it through the snow to Darley Dale, civilisation, and Ellie Walker's 80th birthday party.

So much for global warming! What price, now, your greenhouse effect? I struggled through the snow to the barn where my old, broken bridge lies and contemplated laying into it with a pick, in case the release into the atmosphere of the chlorofluorocarbon-rich refrigerant gas might tip the balance back towards summer.

Can you tell this was not written on my word processor? Has the smell of wood smoke and the candlelight's glow survived the freezing walk through snowdrifts, the telephone line to London, and the new technology at Wapping?

The lights went out at 1.30am on Saturday, with a bang and a blue flash. The telephone spluttered out, during the day. This Sunday morning the two-mile lane to the nearest village is chest-high in snowdrifts, the village itself is without power or telephones, and cut off by road from the A6, Derwent Valley, Matlock and Derby. Down there, we hear, life is comparatively normal, and Ellie has not cancelled her birthday party. She takes the view that, after 80 years' wait, it would be feeble to postpone a celebration because of the weather. I agree. When I have written this I shall set out for her house on foot.

Apart from the inconvenience and the thrill of it all, the effect of a sudden suspension of our ordinary means of communication is one of an instant slowing down — almost to a standstill — of time.

Usually, weekends race by: people to see, visits to make, things to buy and deliver. Events happen not just faster, but more. It is not simply that nothing has happened to me for the past two days, beyond getting the wood and coal in, eating two tins of baked beans, and making one struggling visit to the village; nothing has happened to anyone around me, either. Communication of all kinds has been sharply reduced.

We sometimes speak as though the revolution in information

technology that started with the telephone was just a revolution in the speed and means of communication, but did not change the nature of what was communicated. An MP's secretary, busy "replying" by means of a word-processed form-letter to a mass "write in" (in the form of hundreds of identical letters, differing only in the signature), once said to me: "Thank goodness for word processors, or how would I have been able to reply to this lot?"

Not just the news of the occurrence but the occurrence itself is created by the technology of communication and rapid travel. Imagine the last month in British and international politics if global communications and travel had been frozen by a snowfall such as grips Derbyshire this weekend. Tony Benn would be on a boat bound for the Gulf, Ted Heath would be on a boat coming back, their missions far from the public mind.

Ambassadors, not prime ministers, would be conducting foreign policy, except where the largest decisions were involved; and these would take months. Mrs Thatcher would not have gone to Paris while her leadership campaign stumbled; indeed she would probably not have been challenged: without the telephone, how can 300 men conspire quickly? Without radio, TV and newspapers, would the thing ever have gathered momentum in the first place? I doubt it.

In fact — to go back to Baghdad — what purpose would hostage-taking serve if the "plight of the hostages" could not be brought daily before the eyes of a television-viewing public?

And, almost as chancy a thought, you would be rescued — as you are now about to be — from any philosophising. For now that time has stood still, I no longer have time to chat.

I must put on my boots, to bring in the wood, to light the stove, to boil the water, to shave, to get ready for Ellie's party. Good heavens — is that the time? Nine thirty already? And I have to be at the party by one! And it's six miles away! There is no time to lose.

Please, no food aid for Russia

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow explains how western charity props up the system and makes real famine more likely

They would have done better to ask whether their help is really needed, the effect it will have, and what alternatives there are to simple-food aid.

In the current climate of benevolence, it is a brave western politician who suggests either that the Soviet Union is not starving in any recognised sense of the word or that its leaders could try harder to husband the country's own abundant resources before asking for more. Soviet farms have just had their best harvest for years; everywhere, cropboards and refrigerators are crammed with food.

Anyone living in the Soviet Union will aver that shops are among the least likely places to find food, except for the barest essentials. Most people order goods on a regular basis from lists made available through their workplace. This is one reason why so little appears in the shops and why pensioners and non-working single parents are comparatively so much poorer than people with jobs.

In rural areas trade is increasingly conducted "in kind". This winter, transactions will be more widespread than for many years

because produce has been kept back in anticipation of supply system failures. More and more, those who can are bypassing the state supply and distribution system, legally or illegally.

Some will inevitably fall between the two systems. They are the people for whom the very elementary system of rationing has been introduced in some areas. Its chief purpose is not to distribute scarce goods as evenly as possible, but to ensure that the poor are guaranteed necessities at state prices during the promised transition to a market economy.

At this point it is legitimate to ask whether bypassing the state supply and distribution system is necessarily a bad thing. If the Soviet Union is serious about rebuilding its economy on market principles, the state monopoly has to be dismantled, or be allowed to collapse.

The fact that shop shelves are so empty and that people are patiently not starving may be a heartening sign that the state system is on its last legs. Just a gentle push would probably force it over the brink. Instead, a massive western aid

effort is threatening to prolong its life for another year.

The initial requests for aid were made, discreetly, by representatives of the very system which is threatened. Some were personal initiatives by the new breed of Soviet politician genuinely concerned for the welfare of constituents. Most, however, were appeals by officials and diplomats at the Paris security conference and other international gatherings.

The warnings of hunger were accompanied by other warnings, also Soviet-inspired, of millions of hungry Russians flooding westwards. The Soviet ambassador in Brussels last week threatened shamelessly that if the West failed to give aid, it could face mass Soviet immigration. Washington, which has steadfastly refused to grant Moscow most-favoured-nation status unless it allows free emigration, was last week reported to be considering dropping the condition in view of Soviet food shortages.

A cynical view would be that the "Soviet famine" is little more than a highly successful attempt by the Soviet leadership to gain time to

stave off bankruptcy and save the system. Whether such a trap has been set or not, there is no reason for western donors to fall into it. The commendably giving mood that prevails towards the Soviet Union could be far better channelled into almost any area except the provision of food. The Soviet Union needs more and better transport, more and better storage and food processing facilities and decent shops. Any or all of these could be provided with western help, provided they were overseen by the western sponsors.

Some argue that help should be provided mainly to would-be Soviet entrepreneurs, outside the state system. The non-state system, however, is not yet ready to receive more than start-up help, and even that is a risk. What people need above all is the discipline and training to run a new system for themselves and education in the ways of a legal market.

So long as people resist even modest price rises and insist on their right to buy all and everything at prices far below cost, their road to a market economy is blocked. Then, real hunger could be in prospect — not now, but in the spring or next winter, when the Christmas spirit is long past and the West remembers only the famine that never was.

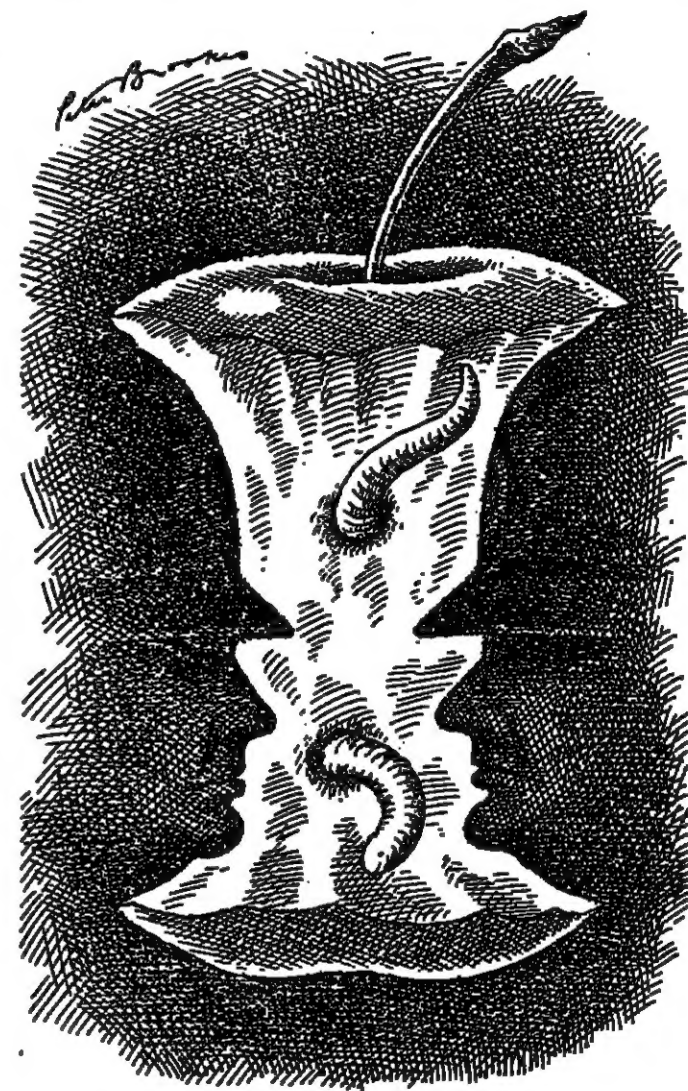
Bernard Levin puts two questions to the Metropolitan Police after its latest false-imprisonment award

It's rotten-apple time again, I'm afraid; some more pippins have surfaced in the Metropolitan Police barrel, though it has proved impossible to identify them. Sometimes it is difficult to resist the conclusion that there are more rotten apples than fresh ones.

"Unfair, unfair," the Met's spokesman will cry, with reason. Of course it's unfair; I am being over-dramatic only to emphasise the nature of the incident I am about to discuss. I know that the celebrated claim Acab (or, less acronically, all coppers are bastards) is false. There are signs that the revolution felt by honest policemen for the dishonest ones is having an effect. Unfortunately, whenever a rotten apple is caught rotting, a great deal of the good that has been done disappears down a hole of public scepticism.

"Boxer accepts £50,000 over action for false imprisonment," said a *Times* headline. A former world champion boxer, Maurice Hope, MBE, was arrested when in his car by two policemen of the Met; he was charged with smoking and eating cannabis, and for good measure assault and obstruction. Eventually the case came to court. It did not, however, stay there long; the Met offered no evidence, and Mr Hope had the consolation of the judge's time-honoured words in his ears: he left the court "without any stain on his character".

I suppose the Met might say that if he had had a stain on his character it would have been invisible, because — it is a familiar story, alas — Mr Hope is black. I must make it clear that there is no evidence that the policemen who fitted up Mr Hope were the two who arrested him; he was presumably taken to the station, and the arresting officers may have done no more than convey him. But I suppose it is unlikely that whichever officer or officers did do the dirty work would claim responsibility. May we hope that some of those who didn't will finger their rotten apple?



to disciplinary justice. Too far as bad.) No wonder that the *Times* report of the Maurice Hope case recorded the fact that more than £230,000 in damages had been awarded in the High Court against the Met in 1989, a sum more than double the year before; and the doubled sum excluded out-of-court settlements.

When is this going to stop? Once there was a significant degree of real corruption in the Met; who, having heard his name, could ever forget Chief Superintendent Wally Virgo? But he and his mates were after money; it would not have occurred to them to waste their time planting drugs on youths and

roughing up black men — several of which cases I have described in the past. To the credit of a series of commissioners, that reign of robbery was brought to an end. It was replaced in due course by a more sinister phenomenon; the kind of manufactured evidence that brought the abrupt disbandment of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. And now there is a third plague, typified by what happened (or, as the Met would say as it forked out £50,000 just for fun, did not happen) to Mr Hope.

I am now obliged, as I am whenever I discuss one of these cases, to record the background from which I start; I am not one of

those who are by experience or upbringing hostile to the police. I must add that I believe that those in charge of the Met are resolute to purge their dishonest members. But it is sometimes made hard for me, for decades, when reading of a trial at which the accused claimed that the police had knocked him about or put the drugs in his pocket. I murmured "A likely story". I have to say that now, when I come across yet another such case, I instinctively believe the accused.

The Met can ignore me. But if the Met thinks it can ignore all those like me who find their beliefs about the police have moved across the spectrum from instinctive belief to instinctive disbelief, then the Met, one day soon, is going to get the shock of its life. I know the answer: a policeman under suspicion is entitled to a fair hearing. Of course he is; I of all people would not question such a principle. But the sear is not even. The law distinguishes between a decision "on the balance of probabilities" (the test for civil cases) and a verdict "beyond a reasonable doubt" (the rule for criminal ones). Because procedures in police disciplinary tribunals cannot in themselves issue in criminal convictions, the balance-of-probabilities rule used to be enough. But the Home Office was persuaded to weaken the principle for the Met, so that an accused policeman would have to be proved guilty beyond reasonable doubt, even though the "case" could lead only to disciplinary action.

In practice, that has made it virtually impossible to dismiss policemen who behave in the way they have done in the scandals I have described (whichever policemen were responsible in each case) because it is always their word against that of their victims, and there will always be room for a reasonable doubt.

There were hints recently that the Met intended to ask the Home Office to tip the scales back the other way, so that a policeman can be "convicted" on the balance of probabilities. The new Home Secretary could hardly start better than by encouraging the Met to ask for the reversal, and, if there is no asking, doing it himself.

An iceberg tip for Rifkind

Among the first decisions facing Malcolm Rifkind, the new transport secretary, is whether to publish the report of a new enquiry into the sinking of the Titanic 78 years ago that could finally exonerate Captain Stanley Lord, master of the Californian, who was censured for not steaming to the rescue.

Captain Thomas Barnett, former principal nautical surveyor or at the Department of Transport, has been sifting through a mountain of old and new evidence. It has been claimed that Lord was made a scapegoat for other failures, such as the inadequate number of lifeboats aboard the Titanic. Lord's apparently blatant disregard of distress signals from the Titanic may be seen in a new light following the discovery of the wreckage five years ago by the American oceanographer Roger Ballard — 16 miles from where the Titanic was originally thought to have gone down, and possibly that much further from the Californian's position.

Rifkind should publish the report, if only to deflate Labour's transport spokesman, John Prescott. Here is one disaster for which present-day Tories cannot possibly be blamed.

Golden oldie

On the basis that late is better than never, the Royal Mint is to make amends to the Duke of Wellington for failing to honour him after the Battle of Waterloo. At a ceremony in London tomorrow — 175 years

late — the eighth duke will receive the commemorative gold medal promised after the battle.

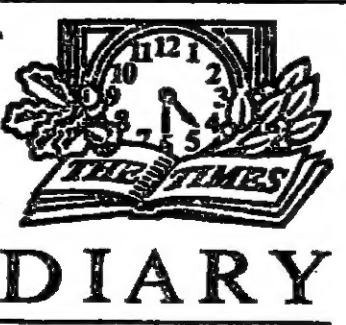
Why has it taken so long? The original medal was commissioned from the Italian engraver Benedetto Pistrucci by the first duke's elder brother, William Wellesley-Pole, Master of the Royal Mint. "Pistrucci tried to chisel more money out of the Mint and it took him 30 years to complete the dies," says a spokesman for the Mint. "It was envisaged that the medals be given to each of the sovereigns in alliance with the Prince Regent and to their ministers and generals. But by 1849, when the dies were ready, the four allied monarchs had died."

It was also feared that the steel used in the dies was too weak to strike a medal. Thus the Iron Duke went to his grave without his memento, even though all his soldiers had been given a medal. "We shall apologise to the present Duke for the delay," says the Mint.

Mind the bores

London Underground has turned to broadcaster Michael Meech, who gives travel information updates on local radio, for advice on placating angry commuters. With the network subject to increasing breakdown and delay, Meech has told drivers and platform announcers they should be polite, friendly and informative and, above all, should inject a note of humour into their apologies.

Nothing frustrates passengers more than to be told that delays are due to "circumstances beyond our control," says Meech. Putting the advice into practice, the driver of a District Line train told for



ten minutes outside Tower Bridge station the other day announced: "I apologise for this £1 million piece of equipment being stuck on the line. But it will eventually be going to Wimbledon. Honest."

Fine, provided passengers are not infuriated by hearing the same joke time after time.

Hostage to fortune

As hostages released from the Gulf come home, the Imperial War Museum has complained about the failure to get their man out there. Dr Alan Borg, the museum's director general, says he is exasperated with the Ministry of Defence over its failure to allow painter John Keane to travel to the Gulf as the Museum's official artist.

Dr Borg wrote to the defence secretary, Tom King, on the subject. His letter went unanswered. He has personally lobbied

senior MoD staff, to no avail. It is now nearly four months since the museum's artistic records committee appointed Keane to record the activities of the British forces in the Middle East.

"We have pursued every channel and have had a total non-response from the ministry," he says. "It is very frustrating for the artist, who is understandably fed up. It is a great shame that he is not out there producing work that will be valuable to historians in the future. It is an opportunity missed."

Part of the dispute concerns Keane's official description. As there is no war, there is no immediate need for a war artist, says the MoD. But Dr Borg says: "He is not meant to be going simply as a war artist, but as an official recorder. It seems to be easier to get out of Baghdad than it is for Mr Keane to get into the Gulf." Meanwhile Keane, who has been using his time to complete a previous commission, continues to kick his heels in London. "I don't know what is happening. I can't make plans for Christmas. It would be nice if I had some personal contact with someone in the MoD."



Farewell party?

One of the highlights of the Dulwich social calendar at this time of year is the Thatcher Christmas drinks party. For the last two years gold-embossed, hand-written invitations have dropped on to neighbours' doorsteps in the walled enclave on the South Circular Road where the Thatchers live. But now that the house is up for sale, neighbours accept that this is probably the last time they will be on the guest list.

Local Tory MP Gerald Bowden, who is naturally invited, will be particularly sad to see the Thatchers go. "People seem to think they have never spent any time in their Dulwich house," he says. "They have, and they enjoy very warm relations with their neighbours. They are very much part of the local community."

Bowden also has another reason to regret their departure. With a majority of only 180 he can hardly afford to lose their votes.

Baker's buzzing

Most ministers who take over new portfolios in a cabinet reshuffle prefer in-depth briefings from the officials they intend before asking them to come up with new ideas. Kenneth Baker, the new Home Secretary, is an exception, as his advisers have discovered.

His first words on entering his new office, even before exchanging the usual pleasantries with his staff, were: "Gentlemen, are there no initiatives we can take?" So much for the myths created by *Yes Minister*: the officials were left dumbstruck.



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PARIS-BERLIN EXPRESS

In 1946 Winston Churchill said that "the first step in the recreation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany". Since the European Coal and Steel Community was created in 1951, that relationship has been central. Forty-two years later, in 1988, Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave perhaps unconscious expression to the arrogance inherent in the then firmly established Franco-German axis. France and Germany, he said, were "the nucleus of a European union". They were engaged in a task in which "we cordially invite our friends to participate" but would not — by implication, whatever their friends' reservations — "be dissuaded from pushing this union forward". Then, to the consternation of the Quai d'Orsay, came German reunification.

Seen from Paris, the challenge was a traditional one: the European balance of power. United Germany would develop a political as well as an economic muscularity which could destroy the post-war Franco-German equilibrium, threaten France's traditional pre-eminence in the European Community and even lay "Europe" itself open to political and geographical redefinition. The responsibilities of the Quai's European department extend from Greenland to Vladivostok, and General de Gaulle was wont to allude to a Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals; but that does not imply French enthusiasm for a revived Mitteleuropa.

France has had to rethink almost from scratch a post-war strategy based on harnessing German wealth to French political influence, transforming it into a policy for taming German power. Paris has put its foot firmly on the accelerator of EC political and monetary union because President Mitterrand now sees "the recreation of the European family" in terms of preventing its unexpectedly overgrown child from either ruling the roost or wandering off on its own.

Differences of view have not been allowed to intervene with this strategy. However unenthusiastic the French may be about Herr Kohl's federalist view of Europe, that is secondary to the goal of "locking Germany in". For France, that means first and foremost a European central bank. French support for EMU is directly related to fears that once a single market takes shape in 1992, Germany

might lose interest in monetary co-operation and the Bundesbank would simply dictate EC monetary policy. Even on political union, France is more prepared to cede sovereignty to Brussels because Germany would do so too.

The first fruits of France's new policy were seen last April, on the eve of the Dublin European summit. Mrs Thatcher excoriated the pre-emptive Franco-German letter, which sought to "accelerate the political construction of a 12-member Europe", for its vagueness. But the letter served its political purpose: the summit agreed in principle to convene the inter-governmental conference on political union which opens in Rome this weekend.

On monetary union, French pressure was responsible for Herr Kohl's decision to override the objections of his finance minister and the president of the Bundesbank and agree in October to a target date for EMU of January 1994. Last week they repeated April's joint act, after a strategy-setting dinner in Paris, during which they paid not a shred of attention to the collapsing international trade negotiations under the road in Brussels. The result is another joint letter which openly seeks to pre-empt the Rome summit by defining more closely than before what they want from political union.

The importance of the letter is not that it reflects total agreement. France's policy throughout has been not to worry about detail so long as Herr Kohl keeps describing the Franco-German relationship as "the motor of European integration". But the letter goes a long way in that direction. It commits France and Germany to work towards a common defence policy, to majority voting in the Council of Ministers on all but a few subjects, and to a common foreign policy.

Britain, which has reservations about all of this, has made a poor fist of making its own case. Douglas Hurd will set out Britain's thinking on political union only today, in a speech in Berlin which now risks looking like a belated postscript.

If Britain is not constantly to be on the defensive against Franco-German diktats, the government should take a leaf from the French book. John Major's priority must be to define Britain's aims as hard-headed as does France, and to pursue the alliances necessary to promote them no less single-mindedly.

OPENING DOWNING STREET

The message has changed along with the old order. But will the method of conveying that message beyond the portals of Downing Street also change? Already John Major has displayed a willingness to offer his personal observations on matters of the moment at every opportunity, supplementing parliamentary question time and set speeches with ad hoc statements and interviews from Downing Street. Some of those associated with unattributable "lobby briefings" from the Downing Street press office have begun to float a further step: the replacement of the lobby briefing by a new on-the-record daily press conference.

That change is needed is not in doubt. Bernard Ingham's singular style of press briefing — so graphically described in Robert Harris's new book — reflected Mrs Thatcher's style. The shock from Mr Harris's revelations concerns not so much the means as the end, the near-systematic undermining of out-of-favour cabinet ministers. The lobby was the sewerage not the sewage. Mr Major, less abrasive, must find a style that reflects his greater straightforwardness. What is required is a reform that will remove the unnecessary codings and obscurities of the Ingham lobby system, while allowing the government to give greater insights into its thinking than it would ever permit on the record.

Much mythology and nonsense surrounds the status of the Downing Street lobby and its participants. Three years ago, at a time of upheaval in the serious press, some newspapers decided to "leave" the lobby by not attending the briefings and by citing sources for their Whitehall and Westminster stories. In the event they did no such thing.

These papers' journalists obtained their off-the-record material some other way, including tapping into journalists still attending the briefings. They remained parasitic on the system they professed to have left. Even Mr Harris is not above using the unattributable quote in support of his attack on the use of unattributable quotes. None the less the refusenik journalists had some justice on their

side. If what amounts to official intelligence from the heart of government is indeed from the heart of government, readers should be told the special status of that material.

Already what the lobby used to call "Whitehall sources" have become "Downing Street sources". To go a step further and report what "Bernard Ingham (or Gus O'Donnell) says" would be even more truthful.

The rejoinder of many in the lobby is that on-the-record briefings will produce bland encounters better suited to the broadcast media desperate for pictures. However, the key question is not what is said at the briefings but what is said outside them. There will always be some intelligence, deep background, unattributable remarks and so-called "spin" that will never be revealed at such gatherings, though it may emerge from more private conversations on the margins of them. Every government culture finds a way of communicating with the public and of grading the sourcing of such communication. If the lobby system ceased, such briefing would be pushed back to telephone chats or corridor discussion, with a possibly chaotic confusion of signals.

Such a system already operates in Washington. A ritualised daily press conference sees tame journalists lobbying easy catches to press secretaries or presidents. Behind this is a swamp of hints, steers and indiscretions with a whole hierarchy of attributions. Expose the lobby, and, here too, background briefing will emerge some other way.

The formal lobby is now so public an event that the language used in passing on its information is worth updating. If a Downing Street spokesman says something, or hints at something, or even predicts something at a gathering of its members, then newspapers — with his consent — should say so. But there is still a need for "off the record" information, and public awareness of politics is increased by its availability. It must be preserved if a welcome move to more open government does not leave the public more in the dark than ever.

BLOW THE WIND SOUTHERLY

Drivers stuck in snow drifts in the Pennine hills may be forgiven for thinking a bit of global warming would be no bad thing — indeed, that some immediate M6 warming would do on account. But what this country really needs is colder weather in winter, warmer in summer, both more predictable.

British weather is perfidious, which may explain a much-cited streak in the national character. This reason for this unreliability is illustrated night by night by the television weather maps. Britain is a northern country but one that usually gets off scot free. The Canadians and Siberians suffer the weather they deserve for being above 50 degrees of latitude. Pampered Britain, which by the global map should do no better, has its climate manufactured in more balmy climes and specially flown in. The wind is supposed to waft gently from the southwest, warming up nicely over the Gulf Stream on the way.

But this being Britain, deliveries are never guaranteed. From time to time the wind loses its way and blows down from the North Pole, plunging an unprepared country into chaos and unleashing a mass indulgence in that other national characteristic, the grumble. Those not in actual peril of their lives secretly enjoy the experience, there being few enough chances now to exercise the Dunkirk spirit.

British winter weather plays cat and mouse with its victims, subjecting them to the worst of all worlds. No sooner has a north wind

frozen all the points and whited out the motorways than a southerly one raises false hopes of early spring. The season is characterised less by heavy snow than by rain, slush and ice, particularly when they combine in a horrible mixture called sleet. A few degrees off the average winter temperature would get rid of all that nonsense, and toughen the sleetlike British character to boot.

A colder climate would be easier to manage. So would a hotter one. Take British Rail. It has no sooner recovered from "leaves on the line" when "points failure due to ice" takes over. An all-weather rail service would be a unique public benefit. Given how long BR has had to practise, however, the best chance of that would be a change in the climate.

The trouble is that "global warming" would not lead straight to global warming, making every British summer day a third of a degree hotter than 100 years ago. That we could cope with. It would lead first to unexpected change.

The forces which make masses of water head north-east from the Mexican coast across the Atlantic are as mysterious as those which send common eels swimming much the same route. A tiny upward shift of the global mean temperature and both could decide to go elsewhere. The complex patterns of the atmosphere which regularly make the British surprised by their own weather have an unstable equilibrium. Global warming could upset that equilibrium with a flourish.

Europe's stance and Gatt failure

From Mr Nicholas Ridley,
MP for Chesham and
Twickenham (Conservative),
and Lord Joseph, CH

Sir, We are writing in support of the general thesis of your first leader ("GATT on the rocks") on Saturday.

The failure of the Uruguay Round of the GATT last week poses very serious questions about the future course of EC policy. It was the Community which caused the breakdown, by its refusal to offer adequate reductions in agricultural subsidies. It has thus denied itself, and the whole world too, more open trade in services, a new and better dispute procedure, and the universal safeguarding of copyright and investment.

This is an open invitation to regional protectionism. It is the worst possible news for developing countries. It shuts the door against the exports of the emerging East European nations, who have every right to expect help, not a slap in the face from the Community.

Thus has the Community awakened our worst fears and taken a major step in the direction of Fortress Europe.

Not one European partner has been taking by their obduracy. All through this year British ministers pressed the Community to make sufficient offers of reform to allow the round to succeed. Margaret Thatcher raised the matter at the Houston summit. She warned her colleagues of the danger loud and clear at the recent Rome summit. In Rome, they refused even to discuss the matter, preferring to discuss monetary union. She was isolated, but she was right.

It is the eleven who are isolated now. The endless repetition by European leaders that Britain will be better able to influence the Community by playing a constructive role in its councils has now a hollow ring. She did so and they didn't listen.

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS RIDLEY,
KEITH JOSEPH,
Palace of Westminster, SW1,
December 8.

From Mr G. W. Hunt
Sir, It is said that the least of human emotions is gratitude. So it seems in relation to the GATT negotiations.

The bountiful generosity of Australia and New Zealand to the post-war rehabilitations and the historically huge magnanimity and generosity of the United States in creating a Marshall plan to rehabilitate western Europe are forgotten and count for nothing as Europe shrinks into its untried, unproven isolationist fortress of the future.

What other view can these countries have in their dealings with the faceless European Community than that this is Europe's way of saying "thank you"?

Yours faithfully,
G. W. HUNT,
89 Purist Street, Riccarton,
Christchurch 4, New Zealand,
December 6.

Notwithstanding

From Mr M. J. Bismore
Sir, Your leading article (November 30) on the use of clear language in private contracts quotes a phrase mentioning "a general lien". Lien requires an explanation, but has the precise legal meaning defined over many centuries by the courts. There are many such words in normal usage such as "divorce" and "mortgage".

As to the rest of the language used, the disgrace is not that it should be employed by commercial bodies and lawyers, but that the person of "average intellect" to use your phrase, should find it impossible to understand. If the average man cannot understand the modern silver from one of our talented silversmiths,

or Hardy, let alone Shakespeare — or are such delights to be reserved for the elite?

Yours truly,
M. J. BISMORE,
Bismore, Fodge & Co.
(Solicitors),
19 Market Street,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed,
December 3.

From Mr Andrew Lockley
Sir, Most lawyers deprecate over-complex agreements; they can be as over-difficult for us as for lay people. That is why we have just published a book on plain English in legal writing. We have also redrafted standard conveyancing documents in plain English and believe them to be used now in the majority of house sales and purchases.

More of these legal initiatives are on the way.
Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LOCKLEY
(Director, Legal Practice),
The Law Society,
50 Chancery Lane, WC2,
December 3.

Cheltenham selection

From Councillor Mohammad B. A. Rizvi

Sir, I have been saddened by the media coverage given to remarks made by a private individual, Mr William Galbraith, in respect of Mr John Taylor, the Tory prospective parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham (report, December 3, letters, December 6 and 8).

The impression given is that the party is full of racists. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Analysis of the effects of Thatcher administrations

From Lord Kennet

Sir, There has been much talk during recent events of the need for a return to cabinet government; indeed, it was Mrs Thatcher's ways in and alongside her cabinets that led to her undoing.

But there is an equal need to return to parliamentary government. Most of the press and public has been unaware of the extent to which the Thatcher government has engaged, in the words of the 1689 Bill of Rights, in "subverting and extirpating the laws and liberties of this kingdom".

It is because our laws and liberties depend on the government of the day abiding by the conventions of an unwritten constitution that the former prime minister was able to do this: she was never more than semi-attached to constitutional society.

What has been happening? The executive has been taking into its own hands powers hitherto exercised by the legislature or the judiciary by an increasing use of so-called "Henry VIII clauses" in bills. These allow ministers to alter legislation at their unhampered discretion, without returning to parliament.

The loyalty and duty of parliamentarians, civil servants, and others, to "the Crown" has been redirected towards the executive — in the case of civil servants on pain of imprisonment — in parliamentarians, the prime minister's office controls the post-retirement jobs of civil servants and officers of the armed forces. Ex-ministers are rewarded with huge salaries in the industries they have recently been overseeing. Mrs Thatcher even took the appointment of the chief of defence staff into her own hands.

Local democracy has been gutted, along with local authorities. Previously, self-governing professions and "independent" without consent, consultation, or effective public debate. Royal Commissions are no longer appointed publicly to establish the facts of a situation; privately funded "think tanks" have produced the answers the executive wished for. The collection of national statistics has been altered to serve the executive's rather than the public interest.

Various unacceptable anomalies have been tolerated. Recently

two chairmen of select committees — Sir John Wheeler and Mr Michael Bates — received for a time remuneration from the industries their committees were supervising; government supporters in the Commons are allowed to take money from lobbyists, even to become lobbyists. They have to declare their interests, but some do not.

"Entrepreneurs" have been inserted into the management of public non-commercial bodies to promote "strategic" "market value"; one who has been convicted in the courts and imprisoned has not resigned. "Employers" are increasingly to control public education and "validate" academic qualifications.

All these things have been done to change Britain in the way Mrs Thatcher wanted, and all can be done again by another autocratic prime minister to change Britain in another way. Parliamentary government requires they be not done at all.

Will Mr Major turn his mind to this?

Yours etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords,
December 4.

From Sir John Hoskyns
Sir, Mrs Thatcher's critics are still trying to persuade us that the last ten years have been an aberration which has led us full circle to where we started in 1979. Their defeatist arguments have two main weaknesses. They lack a proper sense of time; and they do not make an honest comparison with what had gone before.

We are talking about the reversal of a relative economic decline which started in the late 19th century and accelerated after 1945, when the Attlee government, with the country virtually bankrupt and an overvalued pound locked into an international fixed exchange-rate regime, moved the economy in the opposite direction from the free-market policies which Adenauer and Erhard were about to introduce in West Germany. Successive post-war administrations failed utterly to make any impact on the resulting economic decay.

By 1979, when the first Thatcher administration took over, British business had effectively given up the struggle and we were close to a state of economic civil war. Unlike her predecessors, she and her closest colleagues realised that it could take ten years simply to halt the decline and point the economy in a sensible direction; and that it might take the whole of their first term simply to restore some semblance of financial stability.

By 1987, though it is perfectly true that we were measuring growth against the very low base of the second OPEC recession of 1980-1, few people in business had any doubts that, for the first time in their working lives, profound changes for the better were taking place in the British economy.

In the last two years, however, things have begun to go wrong. Our present problems flow from the ERM-battered decision, by Nigel Lawson — in other respects a very successful reforming Chancellor — to "shadow" the West German mark at 2DM to the pound, leaving the mark at the rate, regardless of the domestic monetary consequences. Ironically, it was Mrs Thatcher who foresaw immediately the inflationary consequences of such a policy, and fell out publicly with her Chancellor, while her critics congratulated Lawson on his pragmatic abandonment of "imperialistic Thatcherism dogma".

We don't know yet whether the huge Thatcher administration did enough, fast enough and well enough, to lay the foundations for a real economic miracle, or whether the resurgence of the Treasury's obsession with exchange-rate policy will have paid to its chances. What is absolutely certain is we are not nearly back where we were ten years ago.

There is much talk today of Britain becoming "marginalised" within the EC. What we often seem to forget is that in 1979 we were beyond the stage of our European partners; we were almost out of sight. What would have happened without her?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOSKYNs (Head of prime minister's policy unit, 1979-82),
Windrush, Great Walsingham, Norfolk, Suffolk,
December 2.

Choice between war and sanctions in Gulf conflict

From the Bishop of Manchester

Sir, You call (leading article, December 5) for "straight thinking on the world's determination to drive Iraq out of Kuwait". You then criticise reliance on sanctions as the means for doing this.

With respect, your leader shows few signs of straight thinking about either the effectiveness of sanctions or the potential consequences of a war in the Gulf fought with modern weapons.

Sanctions have often been ineffective because, they have not been applied vigorously and consistently over a long period. However, there is one recent example of a situation where sanctions, even though only partially applied, had a remarkable effect. There is little doubt that these were the driving force behind the South African decision to leave Namibia, and indeed other changes which we are seeing in southern Africa.

There is no ideal solution to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. But unless an all-out assault on that country and its occupying forces would seem to be an increasing number of people in Britain to carry the greatest dangers and to be morally unjustifiable.

According to estimates many thousands of civilians would be in the operations and there would be a flood of refugees. The damage to oil installations could be potentially disastrous to economies dependent on oil, not least in poor third-world countries.

The responsibility of opinion-formers, including your paper, is surely to stand against this dangerous drift to war, and to stiffen the resolve of all to stick to the maintenance of sanctions, however long this takes, so that Iraq does not profit from this brutal aggression.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY MANCHESTER,
Bishopscourt, Bury New Road,
Manchester 6,
December 6.

Silver at No 10

From Mr Christopher English

Sir, Mr Broadway's letter (December 6) refers to the loss to 10 Downing Street of the use of the Belton silver. He suggests that the government might commission modern silver from one of our talented silversmiths.

The Silver Trust was set up in 1988 to establish a national collection and to promote an increased knowledge, appreciation and understanding of contemporary British silversmiths and craftsmen with a sharpened focus on the skills which they have in such abundance.

The trust will sponsor and commission major works by modern British silversmiths which, whilst remaining in the ownership of the trust, will be offered on loan to her Majesty's government at 10 Downing Street, British overseas embassies, other governmental and national institutions, and for public display.

An anonymous benefactor has recently given the trustees enough money to commission ten silversmiths to make the primary pieces for a national collection. It is the intention of the trustees to add to this collection as and when money is available.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ENGLISH
(Secretary to the trustees),
The Silver Trust,
30 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

All-male cabinet

From Mr Stephen Schick

Sir, Stephen Schick (December 3) suggests that if a politician shows "petulant and self-important behaviour" it is not a good advertisement for having politicians of that sex in the cabinet.

Why are there men in the cabinet?

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER FOWLER,
21 Deodar Road, SW15,
December 3.

From Mr B. Lessmore
Sir, Not a woman in the cabinet and not a woman amongst the 71 executive directors of the 12 electricity companies.

At the same time only five women non-executive directors among a total of 54.

Yours faithfully,
B. LESSMORE,
38 Ford Street,
Morecambe, Lancashire, Cumbria,
December 3.

From Mr D. M. J. Alexander
Sir, Your art market correspondent describes a sale conducted by "Robbie's first female impressionist auctioneer" (later editions, December 5). This appointment must be the most innovative in the long history of the firm and presumably was made to satisfy the feminist lobby in the absence of a suitably qualified lady.

Will this example be followed elsewhere? Criticism of the all-male cabinet might be silenced if one of its members were to appear before the Commons in drag.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. J. ALEXANDER,
12 Fairgreen East, Cockfosters,
Barnet, Hertfordshire,
December 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

سكائن الأمل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 8: The Queen was represented by the Very Rev Gillespie Macmillan (Chaplain to Her Majesty in Scotland) at the funeral of the Very Rev George Reid (Extra Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland) which was held in Colinton Parish Church, Edinburgh, this morning.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 9: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at the Annual Carol Festival of Crisis (the Charity for single, homeless people) of which Her Royal Highness is Patron, at Southwark Cathedral, London, SE1. Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr John Birt, deputy director-general, BBC, 46; Viscount Boyle, 59; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor and director, 30; Miss Rumer Godden, writer, 83; Mr Cecil Hallett, trades unionist, 91; Lord Harris of High Cross, 66; Mr Nicholas Henderson, racehorse trainer, 40; Sir Clifford Jarrett, civil servant, 81; Mr Michael Jopling, MP, 60; Miss J.M. Keaworby, principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 57; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash player, 27; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, organist, 49; Mr Raphael Maklouf, sculptor, 53; Mr Michael Manley, Jamaican politician, 66; Mr Olivier Messiaen, composer and organist, 82; Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, Lloyds Bank, 62; Miss Mary Norton, children's writer, 87; Sir John Peel, former Surgeon-General to the Queen, 86; Mr T.S. Roberts, former chairman of Midland Haven Conservancy Board, 79; Mr C.W. Turner, director, Glasgow Academy, 57; Mr M.T. Wright, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 54.

Memorial service

Mr W.F.R. Hardie
A memorial service for Mr W.F.R. Hardie was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev D.J. Atkinson, Chaplain of Corpus Christi College, officiated.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giovanni Guarini, poet, Ferrara, Italy, 1538; Thomas Holcroft, dramatist, London, 1745; César Franck, composer, Liège, 1822; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1830; Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, field marshal, governor-general of Canada 1946-52, London 1891.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the George Cross Island Memorial, will attend a presentation on Operation Pedestal and a dinner at the Imperial War Museum at 6.30. The Duke of York will perform the topping out of the new building on the site of the Cripplegate lastings in the City of London at 9.30. The Princess Royal will attend the Abbeyfield Bristol Society extra care appeal Christmas concert at St Mary's, Redcliffe, Bristol, at 7.25. Princess Margaret will attend a carol concert in the Guards Chapel at 6.45 in aid of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. Prince Michael of Kent and Princess Michael of Kent, as Patron of the St. Faith's Trust, will attend the 30th anniversary ball at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 8.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.G.J. Badnach-Nicolson and Miss C.V. Pilon
Mr and Mrs David Pilon, of Belgavia, London, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Claire, to George, son of the late Mr A. Badnach-Nicolson and of the late Mrs Isabel Keith Grierson, of Kirkpatrick Durham, Dumfries and Galloway.

Mr H.J. Bartlett-Ellis and Miss C.E. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Henry James son of Mr and Mrs Frank Ellis, of Chester, Warwickshire, and Charlotte, daughter of the late Jeremy Russell and of Mrs Mary Davies, of Woodcote, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.J.Q. Church and Miss C.E. Beaton
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs J.Q. Church, of Nantwich, Spain, and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.C. Beaton, of Hong Kong.

Mr J.A. Ford and Miss J.E. Riley
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Ford, of Norfolk, and Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Riley, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr H.H. Gregorie and Miss B.J.S. Irem
The engagement is announced between Hamish Harwood, second son of Mr and Mrs T.H.M. Gregorie, of Buntingford, Norfolk, and Belinda Jane Stanford, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.C.S. Irem, of Buckland, Surrey.

Mr D.E.K. Li and Miss T.A. Mendes
The engagement is announced between Dominique, son of Mr Alan F.S. Li, of Hong Kong, and Mrs Colette Guidetti, of Deauville, France, and Tony, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian C. Mendes, of Johannesburg.

Mr M. Woodhouse and Miss L.P. Micklem
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Woodhouse, of Ovington, Kent, and Lavina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Micklem, of Harford Mill, Langford Budville, Somerset.

Dr M.P. Delaney and Miss P.M. Thomas
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Mary's Catholic Church, Falmouth, Cornwall, of Dr Michael Paul Delaney, BSC, MB, BS, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Delaney, of Ovington, Kent, to Miss Fiona Marie Thomson, RGN, RSCN, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Blair Thomson, of Perranwell Station, near Truro, Cornwall.

The bride was attended by Alison Tuckwood, Heather Campbell, Sarah Delaney, Amy Thomson, Siobhan Willmore, Rebecca Bishop and Master Jack Delaney. Mr John Delaney, brother of the groom, was best man.

A reception was held at the Falmouth Hotel, and the honeymoon will be spent in Madeira.

Mr N.A. Malins-Smith and Miss M.A. McKibbin
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 8, at St Cuthbert's Church, Durham, of Mr Nicholas Malins-Smith, son of the late Major and Mrs S.G. Malins-Smith, and Miss Aileen McKibbin, eldest daughter of the late Dr Kevin McKibbin, and of Mrs Mary McKibbin.

Nature notes

THE VERY small insect-eating birds are most vulnerable in wintry weather. Wrens and long-tailed tits quickly lose their body heat, while frost and snow on the branches and tree trunks makes food hard to get at. Nor is it easy for humans to help them.

Both species have become very common, after the recent warm winters - in central London last summer, in leafy spots, as many as five wrens could be heard singing in answer to each other. But a harsh winter would certainly bring their numbers down.

Blackbirds and song-thrushes, which feed mainly on the ground, are also thwarted by snow or hard earth. But for the time being they have gone up into the hedges, where berries are plentiful after a good harvest.



THE WREN

are best placed to find food: small flocks of greenfinches are now feeding in hedges, tearing off the dangling seeds with their stout beaks. On wayfaring trees, there are clusters of thin black seeds on the downy twigs. Larch trees are bare apart from their cones, some orange, some grey: they often have thick green ivy round the trunk. A few bent stalks of yellow still have flowerheads like white and brown firework. DJM

OBITUARIES

JOAN BENNETT

Joan Bennett, American leading lady in Hollywood films of the 1930s and 1940s, died in White Plains, New York, on December 7 aged 80. She was born in New Jersey on February 27, 1910.

ONE of the most popular and glamorous stars of her era, Joan Bennett appeared in more than 70 films, reaching her peak in the "black" thrillers of the German émigré director, Fritz Lang. Though her stunning good looks were her most tangible asset she had a wider range as an actress than might have been anticipated on first appearance, and her roles ranged from wise-cracking waitress opposite Spencer Tracy in *Me and My Gal* (1932) to the cuckolding femme fatale in Jean Renoir's *Woman on the Beach* (1947). Nevertheless the glamour was the key to her success and her style did not easily translate to the more complex characterisation which would have been necessary to sustain her career through her forties. She took it without rancour. She had little taste for the style of cinema in the 1950s and 1960s. Only half a dozen of her 70-odd films, she once said, were really worthwhile. In the 1960s she found a niche in a television series, *Dark Shadows*, a gothic fantasy which became something of a cult viewing in the United States. But it was all something of a come-down for a woman who at her peak was one of the symbols of Hollywood's power to enchant the public's senses with the mysterious allure of beauty and the wealth that went with it.

Joan Bennett came from a famous acting family which also included her father, Richard, and sisters, Constance and Barbara. She was educated at boarding school in Connecticut and at finishing school at Versailles from which she ran away to get married at the age of 16. The marriage, to John Fox, was dissolved two years later. Encouraged by her father she made her first appearance on the New York stage in 1928 and began her film career a year later in *Bulldog Drummond*, partnering Ronald Colman.

During the 1930s she was the heroine of a string of mostly light-weight comedies and romances, including *Me and My Gal*, with Spencer Tracy, *Mississippi* and *Two for Tonight* with Bing Crosby; and *Wedding Present* with Cary Grant. Her supporting role in the 1933 version of *Little Women* led to a contract with the independent producer, Walter Wanger. In the wake of the dissolution, in 1936, of her second marriage, to a writer, Gene Markey, she and Wanger married in 1940.

Around this time she took on a new and sharper screen image, changing from a fluffy blonde to a sultry



mond, partnering Ronald Colman.

brunette, and finding a director, Fritz Lang, able to draw out her talent to the full. Their first picture together was *Man Hunt* (loosely based on Geoffrey Household's *Rogue Male*) in which she strikingly, if a little incongruously, played a London streetwalker who befriends the fugitive Walter Pidgeon. Lang and Bennett went on to make *The Woman in the Window* (1944), one of the most celebrated of the 1940s film noirs. She was the vamp who lures an innocent professor (Edward G. Robinson) into a nightmare of deceit and murder.

The following year, Lang, Wanger and Bennett announced the formation

of an independent company, Diana Productions, with Bennett as treasurer and vice-president. The company made only two films but one of them gave Joan Bennett probably the best part of her screen career. *Scarlet Street* was directed by Lang from the novel and play, *La Chienne* (previously filmed under that title by Jean Renoir) and again starred Edward G. Robinson as a Bennett victim, a part-time painter exploited and humiliated by her in favour of the man she really cared for.

There was more humiliation, this time for Robert Preston, in *The Macomber Affair*, directed by Zoltan Korda, and for Charles Bickford in the last of Jean Renoir's Hollywood films, *The Woman on the Beach*. Her fourth Lang film, *Secret Beyond the Door*, in which she marries a man (Michael Redgrave) obsessed with murder, was less successful than the others but another European exile, Max Ophüls, gave her a fine part in *The Reckless Moment*, as a California housewife blackmailed by James Mason.

Though she was successfully cast as Elizabeth Taylor's mother in the Vincente Minnelli comedy, *Father of the Bride* (1951), Joan Bennett found the transition from glamorous leading lady to middle-aged character actress difficult to sustain and by the late 1950s her film career was virtually over. She may have suffered from an incident in 1951 when Walter Wanger, in a fit of jealousy, shot and wounded her agent, Jennings Lang. Less in demand for films, she turned increasingly to the theatre, appearing in several Broadway and touring shows, and to television. In 1963 she was briefly seen on the London stage in a comedy, *Never Too Late*. A volume of memoirs, *The Bennett Playbill* (written with Lois Kibbee), appeared in 1970.

Her marriage to Walter Wanger was dissolved in 1965 and she married, in 1978, a retired publisher, David Wilder. There were four daughters of her marriages.

MARTIN RITT



Martin Ritt, American film director, died on December 8 in Santa Monica, California, aged 70. He was born in New York on March 2, 1920.

COMING to the cinema after extensive stage and television experience both as actor and director, Ritt made his mark with intense and highly charged dramas which usually carried a liberal message - he was blacklisted in Hollywood in the McCarthy era. He was adept at drawing strong performances from actors, three of whom, Melvyn Douglas, Patricia Neal and Sally Field, won Oscars under his direction.

A certain heaviness of treatment and lack of personal style tended to exclude Ritt from the highest ranks of American directors, but his films were skilfully made and he always saw the cinema as a collaborative process. He worked frequently with the same team, notably the actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, the cameraman James Wong Howe, and the screenwriter Irving Ravetch.

His finest film was probably *Hud*, a modern Western which involved Newman, Ravetch and Howe, and gained Ritt his only Oscar nomination. Liberal sympathies, carried over from a pre-war involvement with the American Communist party, informed such pictures as *The Great White Hope* and *Norma Rae*, which tackled racism and trade unionism, while *The Front* echoed his experience of the Hollywood blacklist.

Ritt studied law at St John's University, New York, and was a communist until disillusioned by the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939. His political outlook led him into the radical Group Theatre where he studied acting with Elia Kazan and worked with Lee Strasberg and the playwright Clifford Odets. He made his New York debut in Odets's play *Golden Boy*.

He served in the United States air force during the second world war and acted in George Cukor's patriotic film about fighter pilots, *Winged Victory*. After the war he returned to the Broadway Studio, where his students included Newman,

Woodward and Rod Steiger. In 1956 he directed his first film, *Edge of The City* (released in Britain as *A Man Is Ten Feet Tall*) which starred Sidney Poitier and John Cassavetes and explored racial tensions on the New York waterfront.

There followed two excursions into William Faulkner country, *The Long Hot Summer* and *The Sound and The Fury*, which helped to enhance Ritt's reputation for high octave drama, and *Paris Blues*, a study of jazz musicians, with music by Duke Ellington. *Hud* (1963) used a harsh Texas landscape as the setting for a bleak treatment of human relationships, and brought Oscars for Neal and the veteran Douglas, as well as for Howe's striking monochrome camerawork.

During the 1960s Ritt attempted a variety of subjects: *The Outrage*, a remake of the Japanese film *Rashomon*; *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*, from John Le Carré's novel and starring Richard Burton; and *Hombre*, a Western which impressively fused character, landscape and ac-

tion. His later work was generally less distinguished, although he continued to produce solidly crafted dramas distinguished by their social concerns.

The Molly Maguires, with Richard Harris and Sean Connery, was a sombre tale of nineteenth century coalminers, and *The Great White Hope* explored the racial aspects of the career of the black boxer Jack Johnson, who was superbly played by James Earl Jones. *Sounder* was another film about the experience of blacks, this time sharecroppers during the depression, with Paul Winfield and Cicely Tyson in the leading parts. The attempt to treat the Communist hunt-hunt satirically in *The Front* only partly succeeded despite the presence of Woody Allen and Zero Mostel. Ritt was more at home with *Norma Rae*, for which Sally Field won an Oscar for a sturdy performance as a union organiser in the American south. *Nuis* (1987) was a flamboyant vehicle for Barbra Streisand, who played a callgirl on trial for manslaughter.

As an actor and then as a director. In the latter role he worked on more than a hundred productions, including a live drama series *Danger*. Two of his fellow directors on *Danger*, John Frankenheimer and Sidney Lumet, also went on to careers in the cinema.

In 1951 he was blacklisted because of his former Communist party membership and went back to the theatre. He also taught at the Actors' Studio, where his students included Newman,

Clyde Binfield

A conformist conscience

THE PHRASE "Nonconformist conscience" is a hundred years old this month and *The Times* was its unlikely midwife.

Today we see the Non-conformist Conscience as certainly worthy, sometimes sorrowful, often tiresome, over-concerned with drink, possibly with sex. To adapt a famous judgement, we see it as right but repulsive. We use the phrase to suggest something moral, and therefore awkward and out of step with society; and yet to most of us, it really implies established values, such as sobriety, thrift, honesty, self-help, responsibility, respectability. The Non-conformist conscience is socially very conformist indeed.

Such a picture of moral awkwardness and social conformity set in a Victorian mould will nonetheless serve very well, for the phrase was given currency in the course of a peculiarly Victorian public scandal involving Charles Stewart Parnell, who championed the cause of home rule for Ireland. He was embroiled in a divorce suit which involved lying and deceit, as well as adultery. Yet, not long before, Parnell had been at the peak of his influence as an example of steadfastness to a moral cause, that of nationhood for an oppressed people. He had held out against forces of violence, murder and injustice. He was a hero for English Nonconformists.

Part, at least, of the English Nonconformist reaction to his mistress's divorce case is explained by the intensity of their recent admiration. It may be argued that this reaction toppled Parnell, split his followers, harmed the electoral chances of the Liberal Party and thus delayed Irish home rule for years. Perhaps this really was a rare example of Nonconformists having a direct impact upon Westminster politics. If so, their impact was entirely destructive.

It was from the correspondence columns of *The Times* that there emerged, twisted into an establishment sneer of genius, a phrase which was far too good to miss: the Nonconformist conscience. The Parnell affair burst upon *Times*

readers on November 17, 1890 with the report of the previous Saturday's divorce hearing before Mr Justice Butt. Thereafter, Parnell and Ireland, Parnell and Parliament, Parnell and Liberalism, even Parnell and the United States, filled the paper, save the correspondence columns.

Then came "A Wesleyan Minister". His letter was published on November 28 in protest at suggestions that Parnell might retire temporarily from public life, to return purged by brief oblivion. "Wesleyan Minister" (who may or may not have been Hugh Price Hughes, of the West London Mission) scotched any such notion:

"It seems to be assumed that a compromise will satisfy the national conscience... I take the liberty of pointing out that the minimum demand of the great Nonconformist party is the unconditional abdication of Mr Parnell, and his immediate retirement from Parliamentary life... nothing less will satisfy the Nonconformist conscience now."

In the same issue, the leading article referred slightly to "the vociferous demands of what a correspondent today calls the 'Nonconformist conscience'." As yet, nobody supported "Wesleyan Minister". But the sure sign that his *not* had already entered general usage was when a *Times* second leader applied it jocularly to royal tangles in Serbia: "King Milan, like another uncrowned king of Ireland" is peculiarly lax in his morality upon the point which chiefly exercises what has been commendably described as the "non-conformist conscience".

Five days later, and back on the Irish front, the *Times* first leader used it again, much more crisply this time: "Will the 'Nonconformist conscience' be unmoved?" That question was part of a rather stately campaign to woo Nonconformists horrified at a hero's adultery. It was not very successful. *The Times*' use of the now celebrated phrase was too sneering and too all-embracing. It was not only

Nonconformists who believed that adultery was wrong or who were horrified at the deception and flawed judgement which were now revealed. *The Times* wanted to push a key section of instinctive Liberals into the Unionist camp. Instead, it merely labelled those whose selective conscience kept them to home rule. Nobody was pleased.

Nonetheless, *The Times* engineered a correspondence headed first "The 'Nonconformist Conscience'", then "The 'Nonconformist Conscience'". It began on December 23, 1890, with a letter from "Nonconformist" ("an humble member of that body") and it ended up on January 27, 1891. Hugh Price Hughes helped it along wonderfully with two eloquently written and sloppily argued pieces, in the first of which he had the nerve to wonder whether it was not "time to remember Edmund Burke's great maxim that compromise is the soul of politics".

The explicitly Nonconformist response was less satisfactory. Those letters which played *The Times*' game tended to be signed "A Congregational Minister" or "Another Congregational Minister". Their arguments were little more respectable than Hughes's. The signed letters, by Newman Hall and Henry Allon, Congregational pulpit princes who opposed home rule, steadfastly refused to toe any line. The letters petered out late in January.

In mid-month, *The Times*, with a nice historical sense, noted the death of "Mr William Baines, a Nonconformist". It was Baines's refusal to pay church rate in Leicester and his subsequent imprisonment back in November 1840 which had unleashed Political Dissent upon most levels of English politics. Baines died just as Political Dissent's successor as a catchphrase had served its purpose for *The Times*. As for the reality behind that catchphrase, *The Times* quite understood it.

The writer is reader in history at Sheffield University.

TREVOR KEMPSON

Trevor Edward Kempson, chief investigative reporter of the *News of the World*, died on December 4 aged 58 after suffering from bone cancer. He was born on April 1, 1932.

IN 1973 Trevor Kempson's story on the callgirl Norma Levy and her clients led to the resignation of two government ministers, Lord Lambton and Lord Jellicoe. Kempson's was a career of investigations into the seamy side of life, which ranged from swindlers' covens to sports scandals. His technique often involved going under cover, sometimes for as long as six months, taking on the persona required by the investigation in question. He frequently posed as a well-to-do businessman able to do deals. When his enquiries were complete he would reveal his identity, but by then Kempson had the evidence for exposure and it was too late for denial.

He met and knew senior detectives and West End mobsters on equal terms and gained their respect because he was both fair and accurate. Big-time criminals felt threatened by his reporting and he and his family received many threats over the years. Although his work led to the conviction of many criminals, few bore him any lasting grudges and he remained on good terms with most of them.



Some of those he had exposed rang up, even though he carefully kept his number ex-directory, to see how he was in the last days of his illness. Although he was sometimes sued he proudly recalled that he had never lost a case. He could be trusted never to divulge his sources, although on occasion he was put under legal pressure.

Kempson, who was educated at Merchant Taylors', Northwood, started on *The News of the World* in 1957 to a freelance agency in Reading where he became a partner. In 1962 he joined *The People* at the invitation of its then editor Sam Campbell. "I took a salary cut just to get to Fleet Street, but working under Sam taught me a lot," he said. In 1966 he joined the *News of the World*.

He was once sent on a story to investigate the faith healing profession but came back with a belief in it, despite the doubts of others, and before his final painful illness wrote an article for the *News of the World* on the subject.

Kempson was divorced and leaves three sons, Ashley, Dale and Russell, from his marriage to Marina. Russell is a sports journalist on *The Times*.

University news

Goldsmiths' College
London
Appointments
Senior lecturers: Dr J S Bailey (Music), Dr S M Balfour (European Languages).
Lecturers: C L Ayrey (Music), Ms J S Balfour (Social Science Administration), Ms S E Braddock (Visual Arts), Ms N Browne (Postgraduate Initial Teacher Education), Ms P Deegan (European Languages), Ms J K Jeffries (Visual Arts), Mr L K Johnson (Visual Arts), Mr C Kelly (Undergraduate Initial Teacher Education), A Moore (Postgraduate Initial Teacher Education), Ms E Plackett (Postgraduate Initial Teacher Education), Ms A M Smith (English), M P Wiper (Mathematical Studies).

British-American Ball

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret was the guest of honour at the 38th British-American Ball held on Wednesday, December 5, at Grosvenor House.

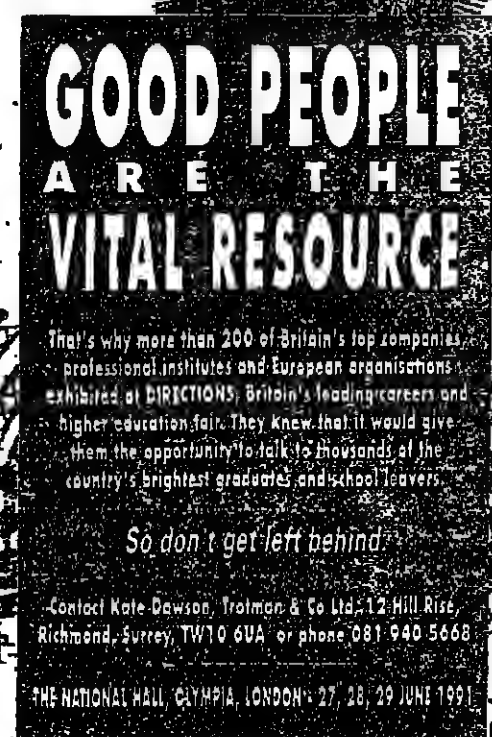
At this British-American Canadian gathering, the many guests included His Excellency the Canadian High Commissioner and Mrs Donald S. Macdonald, Mr and Mrs R. Woods, Major-General and Mrs M.A. Adams, Lieutenant-General and Mrs H.V. La R. Beverley, Vice-Admiral R. Lord, Lord and Lady Forte, Lord Sheffield, the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Ramsbottom, Mr and Mrs Maxwell K. Berry and Professor David Adams, Chairman of British-American Associates.

The Earl Alexander of Tunis, President of British-American Associates, and Mrs Joan M.C. Bailie, chairman of the ball, presided.

John Denis Purcell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of John Denis Purcell will be held tomorrow at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, SW3, at 11 am.

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THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
DIRECTIONS
CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

History, glorious history: Bernard Bresslaw as Lord Sandwich about to taste the first eponymous delicacy, and change the course of snacks, in *Arena Food Night*

Legends in their own lunchtime

Never mind history's great characters, what about its casseroles?

Jonathon Green chews over BBC2's forthcoming dish of the day

If we must be choosy, finicky even, history offers but a single truly great moment as far as food is concerned, and that is, in the way of epochal, earth-shaking, and changing the world as we know it. It came circa 500,000 BC, when Neanderthal man, tired of belabouring Neanderthal woman with the shank-bone of his erstwhile next-door neighbour, tossed the self-same morsel on to the fire. Here it became, if not quite *selle d'agneau laitiu à la grecque* as purveyed by Wodehouse's peerless Anatole, at least the first roast meat, not to mention the first hot dinner.

But why be picky? Taking the historically omnivorous view, as BBC2 does next Saturday in *Arena Food Night*, in the realms of gastronomy great moments abound. There is the discovery of leavened bread by the Egyptians, circa 3,000 BC, and the swift return to the unleavened variety by the Jews shortly afterwards. There is Joseph's mess of pottage. There is the Last Supper. And for post-modernists there is the *piece de résistance* that moment one day in 1954 when Ray Kroc, a middle-aged milkshake salesman plying his trade the length of America's west coast, happened upon a hamburger stand in the town of San Bernardino, the sole property (though not for long) of the brothers Maurice and Richard McDonald.

Nor is it all cakes and ale, let alone burgers. There is a definite criminal angle. All those Borgia suppers to which many were called, but from which rather fewer were up to making their way home. A short back and sides at

Sweeney Todd's Tea with Henry Armstrong, a retired major of Hay on Wye who in 1921, after poisoning his wife, moved on to the local solicitor. Passing him a some liberally sprinkled with arsenic, the major murmured: "Excuse fingers." The solicitor survived. Armstrong hanged.

On it goes, in fact, one great big, glorious *mélange*. Proust's memorial madeleine, Mole and Ratty's riverside picnic, the Flopsy Bunnies' soporific lettuce. Momentous stuff. The meat and two veg of history.

We are what we eat indeed. And if we are, then what better than the ultimate accolade, gastronomic eponymy. The culinary climactic when what we eat is so special, so delectable, so characteristic, that it gets called after us. The heroes and heroines of the table, those who live on in the recipe books and the much embellished menus. The names that resound through *Larousse Gastronomique*, under "gar-nishes": Marivaux, Massena, Massenet. What matter what they did? It's what they ate that counted.

Think of them, every one an adornment of the realm of the flesh (or any other conceivable) made word: beef Wellington (named for the Iron Duke), Australia's pavlova (the dying swan meets kiwi fruit), quiche Arnold Bennett, and the tribute to that hungry, if mixed, quartet:

Nellie Melba, Gioacchino Rossini, Giuseppe Garibaldi and John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich. In other lives an opera singer, a composer, the saviour of his nation and a gambling milord, but for our purposes known primarily for melba toast (not to mention peach melba and garni melba), for tourneys rossini (there's a garni — mainly truffles — for him too), for the garibaldi biscuit (a delicacy known in the Britain that actually created it as "squashed flies"), and the sandwich.

This quartet take their respective bows on *Arena Food Night*, an evening of programmes devoted to the arcana of consumption. Alongside these Great Moments, or more precisely Great Eaters, are films on last suppers (religious and punitive), kosher food, slugs, bugs and the otherwise inedible, and much more.

According to *Arena*, according indeed to the most reliable sources, the vignettes the four present give us the culinary low-down on the way the dishes concerned originated. It is interesting, and doubtless convenient, that all four seem to have sufficiently similar features to be portrayed by Bernard Bresslaw. It is equally interesting that of the four, only Rossini seems actually to have created his masterpiece — a glutinously rich confection designed to top a steak and managings, with its mixture of foie gras,

truffles, madeira and kindred delights, to offend simultaneously the ecologists, the animal rights lobby and those for whom cholesterol sits in the very ante-room of hell. But then Rossini was someone who liked his oosh. Composing was as nothing to a good tuck-in. As the story goes, it was necessary for his employers to lock him in a room, swapping plates of food for sheets of music — the one withheld till the other appeared.

"As the story goes" because, Bresslaw's portrayals notwithstanding, did the English really send Garibaldi a huge broken biscuit, which when reassembled formed a map of Italy? Did Nellie Melba, gorged on the peach dish that Ecoffier had already dedicated to her glory, demand of that maestro that he create something rather less fattening, to wit, melba toast? Did Sandwich, his fortune gone, his house and heirlooms (let alone his last roast partridge) no more than a sneer across the face of his conqueror, Lord Derby, create the "foodstuff" that bears his name?

Well, up to a point, Lord Forte, up to a point, Sandwich, for instance, seems to have remained a reasonably prosperous, albeit unpopular, man. Gay caricatured him in *The Beggar's Opera* as "Jemmy Twitchee", oleaginous betrayer of the hero MacHeath; the playwright Charles Churchill described him in 1763, a year after the eponymous food had appeared, as "too infamous to have a

friend/Too bad for bad men to commend". On the other hand, Captain Cook named what is now Hawaii the Sandwich Islands. As far as the food goes, the French claim that their peasantry nautched such snacks long before the earl; perhaps, like the scientist who built on a generation's research, Sandwich merely formalised tradition.

While Garibaldi was honoured in absentia by British biscuit-makers who had learnt of his liking for currant-strewn pastries, Melba definitely ordered up her eponyms. The peach dish was Ecoffier's way of compromising on her demand for *pêches flambées* and his suggestion of an ice. The toast was a secondary compromise — between the plump Valkyrie's appetite, and the strain it placed on her career.

Anyway, what's a few facts between courses? For a personal great moment, fully attested and possibly challenging the powers of even Bernard Bresslaw, try this: Herman Mankiewicz (he who wrote the script of *Citizen Kane*) was lunching with Arthur Hornblow, a notably fastidious Hollywood producer. Mankiewicz, a notably uninhibited Hollywood drunk, found it necessary to punctuate the proceedings by vomiting across the table. Unsurprisingly this caused no little alarm, but Mankiewicz remained unabashed. "Don't worry, Arthur," he beamed, "the white wine came up with the fish."

Henry Ford was wrong. History is lunch.

● *Arena Food Night* is next Saturday (December 15), 8.25pm-12.55am, BBC2

Echoes of the old Ringmaster

The bracelet J.R.R. Tolkien promised his secretary was transformed into a remarkable literary gift. Now it has been published

In my late teens I went to work for Rayner Unwin at the London publishers, Allen & Unwin. On my first day, in the old building a stone's throw from the British Museum, Mr Unwin dictated a letter to an Oxford professor of whom I had never heard, and whose name I typed incorrectly. It should have been spelt Tolkien.

The letter included paragraphs about "hobbits"; I had never heard of hobbits either, although the children's story, *The Hobbit*, and the first two volumes of *The Lord of the Rings* had been published. The letter was the first of hundreds I was to type to — and from — J.R.R. Tolkien and it was the beginning of my own adventure into the land he called Middle-earth.

Mr Unwin visited Oxford fairly regularly to see Tolkien. As a small boy, he had read the manuscript of *The Hobbit* (his father, Sir Stanley Unwin, offered him a "reader's fee" of a shilling), and declared that it would interest children between the ages of five and nine.

Later, when Mr Unwin was an undergraduate at Oxford, Tolkien sought him out, and he became an occasional visitor to the professor's home. Later still, he went into the family business and published *The Lord of the Rings*.

One day Mr Unwin suggested that I go to Tolkien's home in his place, taking letters and parcels sent by the professor's rapidly growing circle of admirers, and dealing with any replies.

Fans sent gifts frequently, and on my first visit I had a bag in each hand and a great many parcels as well. Because my hands were full, the packers in the warehouse tied the parcels with great loops of twine and hung them on my arms under my cape. When I arrived at his house, the professor turned to his wife, "Look," he said, "Rayner's sent me a walking Christmas tree!"

As time went on, Mr Unwin sent me to visit the Tolkiens more and more, as the professor's mail grew to several hundred items a

week. The gifts from his readers were varied. Many people sent drawings; there were paintings by children and by prisoners, food (the gift of mushrooms in a jar from New York decayed in transit), a tapestry from Amsterdam and even a silver chalice.

One day, as he cut the string on a packet, he said: "If I find this is a gold bracelet studded with diamonds, it is to be yours." Of course it wasn't, but the bracelet became a joke between us.

As Tolkien's fame grew, so did the mail. Fans called uninvited at his house in Oxford, and others telephoned. This — and fears for his wife's health — finally persuaded him to retire from Oxford to Bournemouth. Unfortunately just at the time of the move he broke his leg. When he came out of hospital, he asked if I could stay for a week with him to help set up an office and library in the new home. One day, as I picked up a pile of books in my arms and put them on the shelf, something dropped out from between two of them. It was an exercise book; just the covers with a single sheet between, and on the page a poem. He asked what it was; I gave it to him and he read it aloud. It was "Bilbo's Last Song". "I'll keep that safe," he said.

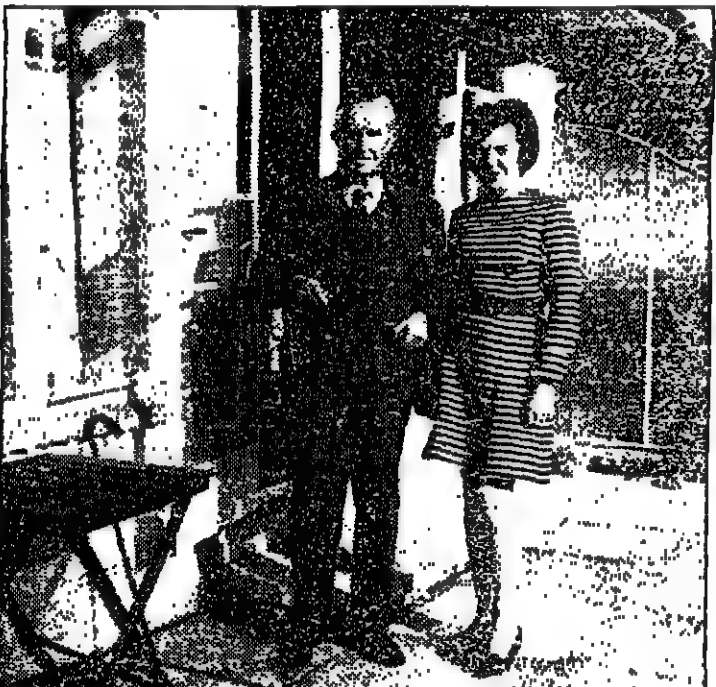
After his wife's death, Tolkien returned to Oxford. I visited him there, too, with the never-ending letters and parcels, and one day after lunch he said: "We've opened all the parcels and there was no gold bracelet for you."

I said that I had not really expected one, and he replied: "I've decided this is going to be your bracelet." He opened a drawer and took out the Bilbo poem which I had found between the books. Then he picked up his pen and wrote that when he died the poem was to be given to me, both the manuscript and the copyright. And now it is published.

JOY HILL

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

● *Bilbo's Last Song*, with illustrations by Pauline Baynes, is published by Unwin Hyman, price £6.95



Hobbit helper: Joy Hill with J.R.R. Tolkien in Bournemouth in 1968

'Twas the night before Christmas

... and the dog was stealing the turkey. Is your insurance cover ready?

CHRISTMAS is always a boom time for burglars, and a busy one for insurance companies. "Thieves are delighted to get their hands on brand new items that are still in their wrappings and not yet post-coded with security markers," says Andrew Harrowen at Norwich Union's press office. "If they steal the receipts as well, they can even try to get the money back."

The owner of a trusty guard dog might feel this is not one of his worries, but while a dog might deter a burglar, it is quite capable of stealing the turkey on its own behalf. Pet Plan Insurance Company is offering a hotline for new pet owners up to December 21 and from January 2, providing instant cover against damage caused by pets. Policies which can cost from £6.25 every second month, offer instant cover for accidental damage and cover for illness after the first two weeks.

Pet Plan's marketing director, Annie Dickins, says that while her company would never encourage people to buy a new pet at Christmas, experience suggests she can expect a fair number of seasonal claims.

Her files for last Christmas contain such horror stories as the overweight Woking cat (at 18lb probably heavier than the turkey) which climbed and toppled the Christmas tree. Nearly £100 was paid out for damage caused to tree and cat (sprawled leg and cut eye).

Then there was the Labrador from Canterbury which suffered vomiting and diarrhoea after wolfing down two boxes of liqueur chocolates, two

further boxes of assorted chocolates, one large bag of peanuts and one family-size box of cheese biscuits.

But these tales pale by comparison with the list of canine crimes compiled by a new dog owner in Co. Antrim, who wrote to the company in January.

This included claims for a presentation case of Yves Saint Laurent Opium perfume, chewed; the sleeve of a guest's fur coat, eaten; one and a half slippers, two nappies, one hair brush, one £80 talking teddy bear gift, some Lego, 40 cigarettes, a housecoat (the visitor's gift to the hostess), one pen and notebook, one man's wallet containing £10, and one pair of spectacle frames, all gnawed. Finally listed was: "One chicken, fresh, dead. Cost: £4.25, pinched from car boot."

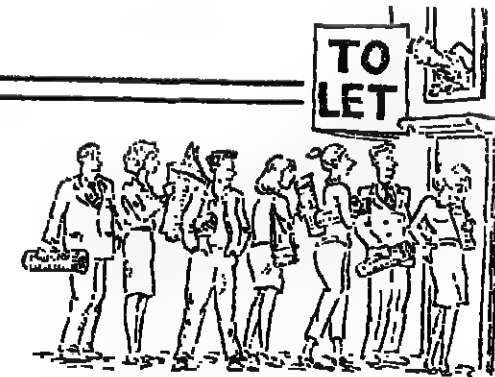
The owner added: "I didn't have enough space to itemise everything in my first letter to you. With four extra people staying in the house they were probably not as watchful as myself, and at times it was very easy for the dog to steal."

The company's £350 payout reflected the fact that the guest's fur coat had been bought for a bargain £200 in a sale. But the human cost is incalculable.

"I have just had the pleasure of friends staying for the last three weeks," the claimant's letter starts. "I hadn't seen them for four years, and after my dog's escapades I doubt if I shall see them for another 40."

VIVIAN TOMLINSON
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Tenants are thicker on the ground in The Times.



With 126,000 of our readers living in rented accommodation, The Times is an excellent choice when you're advertising for tenants. And it's the exact location our readers favour for quality flats and rooms.

Call 071 - 481 4000 to place your advertisement in this daily section. When our readers are moving, they move with The Times.

071-481 4000

LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

"Hooray Henry has picked up his green wellies and left the Royal Agricultural College. His devotion to the expensive pleasures of student life and a superficial interest in farming no longer fit the bill"



Sarah Farley examines the radical change in the demands on today's Cirencester students.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
Friday

As Santa starts filling his sack, Victoria McKee casts some aspersions on his motives, and finds out what's in store for certain households

Are we toying with children's affections?

The toy which took America by storm at the New York Toy Fair last year was the Mommy Doll, a 25in tall, harassed working mother figure that comes with alternative outfits of power suit and briefcase or tracksuit and trainers.

Toy retailers are anticipating healthy sales in an unhealthy climate this Christmas, because of the high number of children with guilt-ridden working mothers, or from broken homes where parents are trying to buy their offspring's affections.

Divorces — which now terminate one in three marriages in Britain, and nearly one in two in the United States — have spawned a generation of "portable kids", as the Americans call them, who demand plenty of portable toys to take between their two (or sometimes more) homes.

The divorce statistics have contributed to the popularity of miniature toys such as Galoob's Micro Machines and Bouncin' Babies. Susan Butenoff, a spokeswoman for Galoob and a keen observer of the toy markets in Britain and the United States, says: "These new 'collectable' crazes indicate that with split-parent households and the guilt factor, kids are getting smaller, less expensive toys on a more regular basis, rather than a few big, expensive gifts on birthdays and Christmas. And the toys, like the kids, need to be highly portable."

The young "divorce cynics", as the advertising agency Gold, Greenlees Tron dubbed them in its recent report (titled "Spoiled Brats") on the future

Do weekend fathers and working mothers buy off their 'portable' children with portable toys?

of advertising in Great Britain, may easily boast two bikes and computers, one for each home. They spend their Saturdays cruising the toy shops with weekend fathers who do not know what else to do with them and try to buy love by buying toys.

Working mothers, too, attempt to assuage their guilt by buying more toys than their stay-at-home counterparts, according to Dr John Pearce, the British child psychiatrist. "There is more money with both parents working, but less time for the children, and children are spoilt with toys as a substitute for parental time," Dr Pearce says. "Parents should ask themselves, 'Am I just buying time for myself?'"

To me, too many toys in a child's room indicate not enough love. If the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles are the sewer equivalent of latchkey kids, perpetually craving the comfort of pizzas, the master rat, Splinter, who trains them, can be seen as the father figure they lack. To boys raised in families with absentee fathers, such scenes of macho togetherness, suggests Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, may fulfil a very real need.

She suggests it can also be good for children to take out their aggressive feelings with toys, a philosophy carried through into the new breed of adult toys such as teen-apart

teddies and "stress dolls" — traffic wardens, bosses and other traditional hate figures which can be ripped limb from limb with the satisfying sound of Velcro tearing.

Professor Jeffrey Goldstein, an American behavioural psychologist specialising in children's play, subscribes to the "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" theory. Prohibiting violent or disgusting toys — however distasteful they seem to parents — will only turn them into a forbidden pleasure.

Professor Goldstein, a member of the National Toy Council in Britain, was welcomed by the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association at its seminar earlier this year on the significance of toys in child development. "Seeing your father shout at your mother is more likely to

provoke feelings of aggression than buying a Teenage Mutant Turtle," Professor Goldstein says. "Children are not putty in the hands of advertisers."

But Dr Pearce argues that manufacturers who market such a grim vision may actually prove hazardous to our children's health and development. "The use of plastic has made it possible to produce extraordinarily detailed and lifelike toys, which are passed on to very young children who once upon a time would have relied upon imaginative play with old washing-up liquid bottles and pots and pans. Today their imagination is limited by the details in the toys, and the more detailed the toy the less scope for the child's own imagination and the more they are manipulated by the manufacturer."

The British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association, 80 Camberwell Road, London SE23 0EQ (071-701 1211) will lend a video to interested groups on how to choose well-designed toys for good development at different ages.



For play: divorcee Sue Rolfe and Katie — "I don't think she gets any more than if her father and I were still together"

Most parents talk of buying children things that 'stretch them'

Toy manufacturers may not be pleased to know that readers of *The Times* questioned about their plans for their children's presents this Christmas drew up lists with scarcely a toy on them. Most talked about buying children "things that would last" or "stretch them" creatively.

None of the divorced parents or working mothers accepted the premise that they bought their children more in order to compensate for any imagined lack. Sue Rolfe, a theatre press officer, who was divorced three years ago when her daughter Katie was nine,

says: "I don't think she gets any more than she would have if her father and I were still together. I think it's mostly peer pressure that determines the gifts children get, and in her school now it's all horses and computers, but we haven't got room for a horse and she's already got a computer." So Katie will be getting tennis lessons, clothes and "craft" things, adding up to around £180.

Caroline Doring, who has recently opened Pinet House, a healing centre in Lewes, Sussex, and her husband Christopher Doring, a former publisher, say they "try not to spoil" their son Henry, aged six. This Christmas he will be getting a second-hand typewriter (free), a "discarded Red Indian outfit", some Playmobil and a stocking, for a total outlay of £58.50. "Henry's a wailing sort of child," his mother says.

Amanda Decker, who runs manor Dried Flower from her Tudor house near Oxford, and her husband, a d industry consultant, of buy their children (Sophie, 12, and William, ten) ne major present, usually something fairly serious" plus stocking fillers. This year

the big presents are likely to be "a sailing boat — a dinghy, really" for William, costing about £400, and for Sophie either a saddle (£300) or the redecorating of her bedroom at a cost of up to £800.

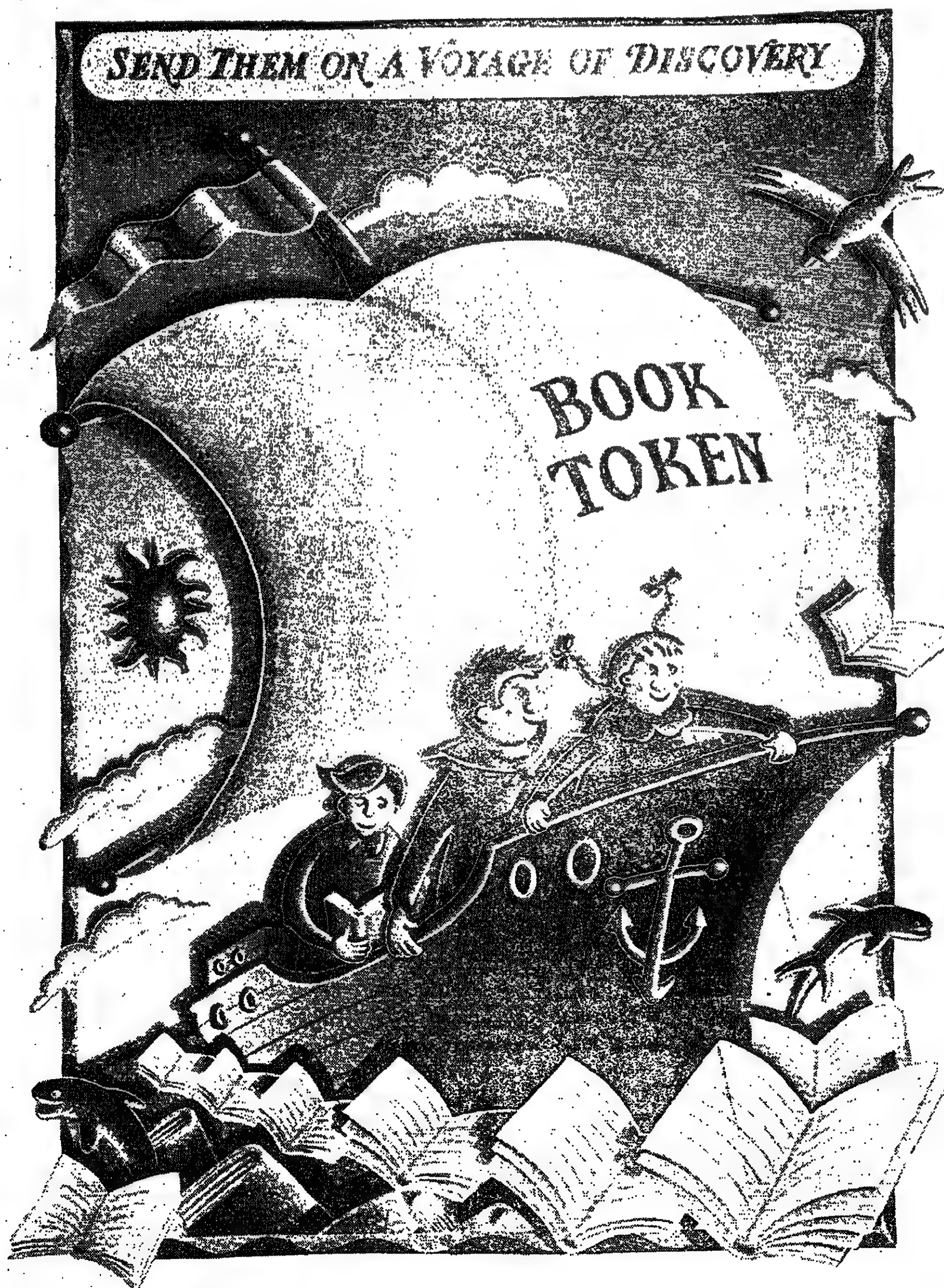
Jane Carter, a former journalist, and her husband Christopher, a banker, live in a five-storey Victorian house in Kensington. The Carters believe in "one big present that's useful and lasting from us" for their children, Jamie, aged six, and Clare, five, and smaller presents from Father Christmas.

This year Clare's big gift will be a hand-painted, stippled pedestal desk, costing £700. "Jamie wants a computer — for about £400, I suppose," The Carters do not buy their children many toys, they say, "because everyone else does that, and if they get too many they become blasé". Each stocking will contain £20-worth of books, a £7.99 video, a personalised stationery set (£7), a ruler and eraser set (£2) and sweets.

Ruth Giendennan is the mother of two daughters — Bernadette, aged two, and Jessica, six months. Her husband, Kevin, is an unemployed builder, and they live in a council house in Billericay, Essex. They are anticipating Christmas on a shoestring, but Mrs Giendennan says: "I wouldn't buy any of that over-packaged plastic stuff anyway. As a member of the Women's Environmental Network I have strong principles about such things."

Bernadette's presents will be a stethoscope (£3.50), a rag doll (£2), some Plasticine (80p), magnetic shapes (£2), a Postman Pat cup (£1.50), a xylophone (£4), a colouring book and crayons (£1), and a scrapbook (£1). Jessica will have a toy roundabout (£5). Total bill, £20.80.

'We haven't got room for a horse and she's already got a computer'



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Lasting impressions: Jane Carter with Clare and Jamie

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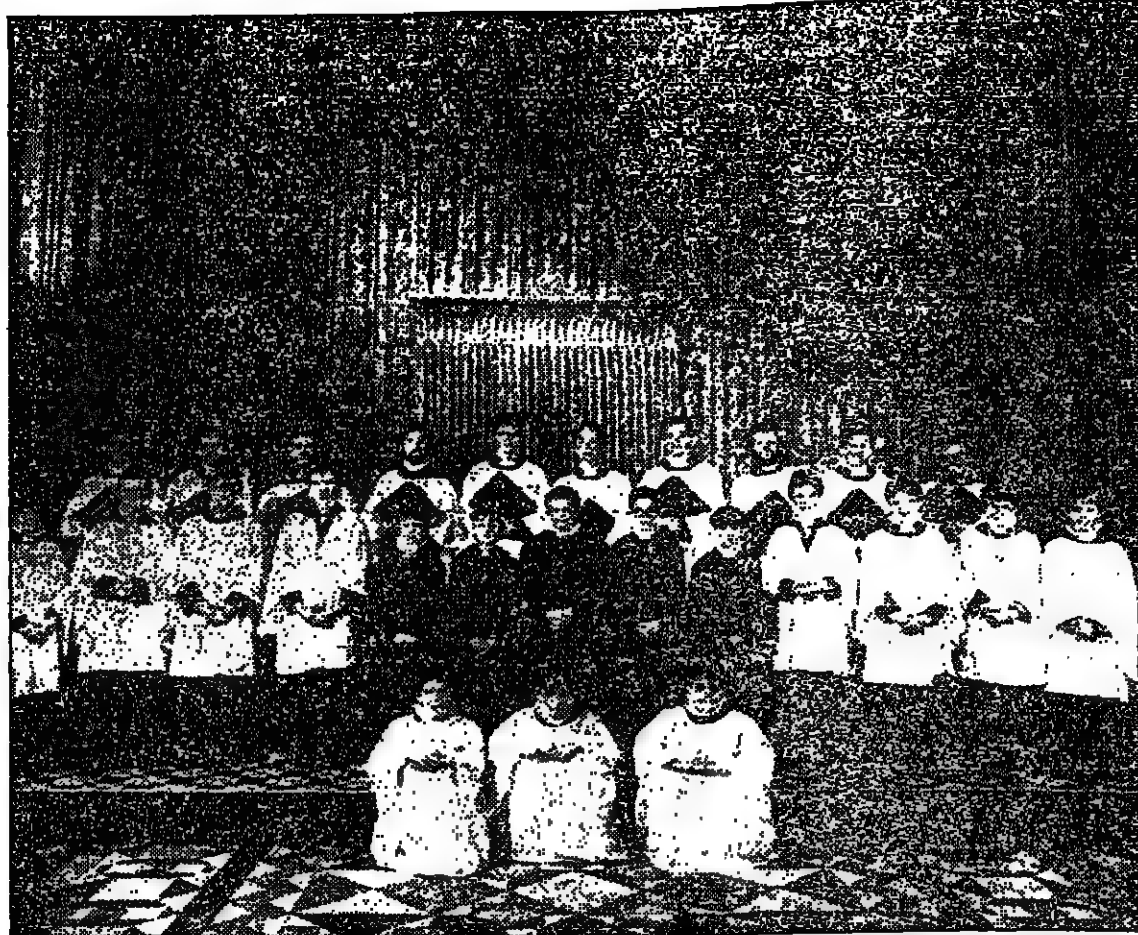
Faith, hope and a little marketing

Charities are getting more professional in their campaigning and winning wider company support

Widget Finn writes



Caring little and large: while individuals still rattle collecting boxes, Bristol cathedral choir has won sponsorship from Nuclear Electric



A new charity is registered every 30 minutes of the working day, joining the 170,000 voluntary organisations that already make demands on our purse and goodwill.

A recent survey carried out by the Charities Aid Foundation showed that the average monthly donation in households has fallen from £1.97 to £1.28.

Articles have appeared in the national press concentrating on the theme that charities, with less financial support, would be unable to survive.

Harold Sumption, who is a trustee for Help the Aged, ActionAid and the NSPCC, fears that talk about falling charity income may become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"A household survey only reflects part of the picture. It should not be taken to represent changes in the pattern of income for charities from the main methods of fund-raising, which are direct mail, covenants and legacies, advertising and corporate giving.

"Income is by no means stagnant, in fact it is increasing for the charities that I talk with."

Simon Lloyd, the fund-raising director of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, agrees that charity giving has not dropped, but has refocused.

"Charity really does begin at home," Mr Lloyd says. "People are more interested in small, local charities where they can see how their money is being spent, and it is the Third World aid programmes that will lose out. However, there is no cause for complacency. We have to improve the well-earned methods of fund-raising and develop new approaches to charity giving."

Direct mail has proved over the years to be a highly effective means of bringing in a significant slice of new donations. Yet critics believe that it tarnishes the image of charities by associating them with the commercial junk mail brigade. The direct mail specialists, Burnett Associates, did a split test for charity, conducting a mail-shot in which some envelopes had the Royal Mail Mailsort symbol, some had a computer-generated label and the remainder were hand-addressed with a stamp. The personalised letters produced by far the greatest response.

Other familiar methods of fund-raising are also benefiting from an increasingly professional approach. Charity shops no longer look like a village hall jumble sale, mainly due to the influence of Oxford's colour-coordinated fashion displays, and their turnover has increased accordingly. More emphasis is being placed on covenants and legacies, and any charity worth its salt makes

sure that an easy-to-understand covenant form is included with all its promotional literature.

The government's Give-As-You-Earn scheme, a system of payroll giving, has yet to fulfil its early promise, but new tax-effective ways of giving a single gift to charity may be more successful. Two recently introduced schemes, deposited covenants and Gift Aid, which is for single annual gifts of between £600 and £5 million, could become valuable sources of income if charities were prepared to spend time informing and encouraging their supporters to give in this way.

Corporate donations are an important part of many charities' income, but the recession is bound to have an effect on the charity budgets of many companies. Mr Sumption is convinced that charities will have to improve their corporate fundraising methods.

"Charities must approach companies in a much more realistic way and not just ask for donations and cheques. They will have to consider more commercial opportunities such as a merchandising scheme where there is a benefit to the company as well as the charity."

Cherubic-faced choristers may not seem to be obvious candidates

for charitable donations, but their musical contribution to English cathedral life has to be supported financially. Bristol cathedral found a bold and imaginative solution to the perennial problem of shortage of funds. The small print at the bottom of the weekly list of cathedral services discreetly reveals that the choir is sponsored by Nuclear Electric.

"We see it as a way of associating a new local company with an ancient local institution," says Dr Wesley Carr, the Dean of Bristol cathedral. "The sponsorship, of £250,000 over a period of ten years, will contribute to enabling the cathedral and its choir to go into the 21st century on a sound financial basis. It is very much a charitable donation — the company is not looking for any return other than the prestige of supporting an important part of Bristol life."

Bristol cathedral displays a worldly, professional approach to fund-raising that other charities might do well to emulate. Most charitable organisations hold an appeal, but the cathedral is running a development programme.

If the thought of commercialism in the cathedral choir makes some people throw up their hands in

horror, the idea of charities among the advertising breaks on television is equally at odds with traditional views of fundraising. However, the much-heralded new way of raising money through television appearances has proved to be a big disappointment to many charities. A 30-second advertising slot tends to trivialise a cause, and the American experience has been that no direct marketing commercial of less than two minutes is worth having because much of the time is taken up with putting across the message and giving the address and phone number.

Charities, like companies, have to become more efficient in order to make the best use of limited, and possibly decreasing, resources. There was a tendency among charities to offer poor, or no, pay and attract amateurs who might be well-meaning but who had little business experience. There are healthy signs that the voluntary sector is beginning to see the logic of paying commercially realistic salaries to attract high-calibre staff. Frequently now, two efficient people are doing the work that was formerly carried out by three staff.

There are conflicting views on whether charity giving is suffering from an economic downturn, but the Nineties present the prospect of a steadily increasing number of charities competing for the same, or a smaller, pot of money. Mr Sumption believes that in the future some charities will have to amalgamate to survive.

"There is a near-duplication of interests in some areas of the voluntary sector," he says. "People are puzzled as to why there are so many charities tackling apparently similar causes. I see that in the next ten years, voluntary organisations will have to join forces, as happens in the commercial sector, and this should lead to greater efficiency."

Mr Lloyd agrees that efficiency and professionalism are essential. "Fundraising has become more streamlined," he says, "because there are a lot of people chasing the same amount of money. In the decade ahead it will be the charities who have got themselves properly organised, who can present a professional case for how they want to spend funds, who will prosper. Those who are unprepared will find it increasingly difficult to persuade the public, and business, to support them."

It wasn't the cancer patient who needed me it was the relatives.



When I arrived at the house the patient was asleep upstairs. I was immediately concerned about his wife. She looked as

if she hadn't seen her bed for a week, which she probably hadn't.

Her daughter was just leaving as I arrived.

They were obviously very close, but I got the impression that the mother was still trying

to protect the daughter, to shield her from what was happening. When we were alone, we talked. Just talked.

About families, and how quickly things change. Sometimes a cup of tea is the best medicine in the world.

People sometimes ask me how I can do this, nursing people who are terminally ill. But you only have to take the hand of someone who's caring for a dying relative. Someone

who's really desperate to rest. You can almost feel the relief easing its way through them. Then you know that it's worthwhile.

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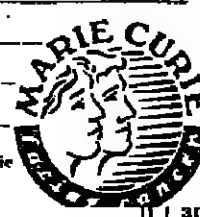
Name

Address

Postcode

To: Brian Roberts-Wray, Marie Curie Cancer Care, 24 Belgrave Square, London W1X 8PG

Friday



Winners with business

Business makes a large contribution to charities. It is estimated that the 400 leading corporate donors give a total of more than £90 million every year to the voluntary sector (Widget Finn writes).

How do companies choose their charity? Andrew Searle, from British Petroleum's community affairs team, says: "We have developed a number of criteria and these are laid out in a brochure. We support a number of categories, including community health and welfare, employment and training, environmental conservation and protection, young people, Third World organisations, arts and education and technical development."

"We look for an organisation that has a clearly identifiable project so that we can monitor its progress."

"We believe that this will help the organisation in applying improved business techniques to the project."

Mr Searle emphasises that it is important for BP to avoid dictating how its donations are used. "Otherwise," he says, "we might find that charities are creating projects because they know it is something that we would support."

BP's Matched Giving programme gives staff the opportunity to nominate their favourite charities.

The scheme, which was launched in 1988, guarantees that the company will match whatever employees donate to charity, and gifts are now approaching £700,000. Initially staff supported the big national charities, but in the last year there has been a switch to small, local charities.

Less well-known charities are also often the beneficiaries of Digital Equipment's charity giving. The company, which

How do charities go about getting donations from the commercial sector?

has a Give As You Earn scheme, will select a charity nominated by its staff. The Living Paintings Trust, which produces three-dimensional pictures for the blind, received £7,000 from Digital, enabling it to produce packets of albums, tapes and thermofoms of Monet's paintings to link in with Digital's sponsorship of the recent Monet exhibition.

Digital's donations are often in the form of computer equipment. There are important criteria involved in selecting the recipients. Peter Thomson, the chairman of Digital Charitable Society, says: "We avoid any direct contact with sales opportunities so it is clear that there are no mixed motives in the donation. We also ensure that every donation of equipment has a mentor."

"Often a small charity thinks it needs computerisation, but without understanding what it needs it for. One of our staff will assess the need of the organisation and report back to our committee, then follow it through with instruction in the use of the equipment."

Digital Equipment is a member of the Per Cent Club, a group of 300 leading companies which give a minimum of half a per cent of pre-tax profits or 1 per cent of dividends to the community. Members are encouraged to publish details of their community contribution in annual reports.

Stephenson Harwood is the first solicitors' practice to become a member of the Per Cent Club. The firm chooses charities connected with the City, the law and organisations such as the Landmark Trust. Christopher Stokes, a partner, says: "One has to make a choice because although our charitable fund is reasonably large, it is a finite source."

Mr Searle makes a plea to voluntary organisations to carry out research on a company's policies before applying for funds. "A lot of time could be saved for both parties if the charity takes the trouble to find out which organisations are interested in working in their area. Publications such as the Directory of Social Change list companies' policies."

Christina Pecksen, the head of the charities unit at British Telecom, gives businesslike applications priority. "The initial application usually reflects the charity's ability to make good use of funding. Many charities seem to think that a scrappy couple of paragraphs on a sheet of paper is sufficient. I do not have time to investigate charities which have not bothered to do their side of the work."

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*Care for the Elderly and Hope for the Hunted

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THEATRE

To beautify or not to beautify

As Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre re-opens its doors today, Joseph Williams looks at the high cost of bringing old theatres back to life

Nothing is more desolate and forlorn than an empty theatre. That strange feeling of something about to happen — a cry from the wings or a cackle of laughter in the stalls — hangs in the auditorium air. If a theatre is completely disused, it is just an artistic graveyard.

But to restore or not to restore our decaying theatres is now a very real dilemma in an age when live theatre is becoming such a high-risk business. There is a nagging fear that a new or refurbished theatre could end up, some years later, as a white elephant. As Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre opens today after a two-year restoration costing £12 million, any lingering doubts as to the future of regional theatre may have to be brushed under the auditorium carpet.

The restoration is superb: a light roocoop skips along the boxes and stalls of this cream and gold auditorium, which is inviting, grand and warm. Tired strolling players will go doubt appreciate the modernised dressing-rooms and bars. Whether the Lyceum can now live up to its grand image is far from clear. Graced in its heyday by such luminaries as Dame Flora Robson, the *fin de siècle* theatre ran out of steam by the 1960s, went permanently dark and, after escaping a demolition order, managed to convert itself into a bingo hall.

Now the listed Lyceum is a fully-fledged performance venue once more. The production schedule kicks off this month with *The Pirates of Penzance*, and later offerings include *Twelfth Night*, directed by Sir Peter Hall, and a Royal Shakespeare Company/Opera North production of *Show Boat*. Stephen Barry, chief executive for both the Lyceum and Sheffield's other major theatre, the Crucible, believes the Lyceum renovation will prove to be a long-term investment for the city of Sheffield.

"Of course there'll be a honey-

moon period of about six to nine months when people will come to see what the new venue looks like, but we'll survive in the long term because the number of touring companies is steadily growing," he says. "The Lyceum will be a touring venue."

The main sticking-point is that the Crucible Theatre relies so heavily on its popular snooker championships to keep itself afloat, and to pour so much money into a second theatre might prove unwise. Barry Pritchard, architect from the Renston, Howarth, Wood, Leven (RHWL) partnership behind the restoration, believes there was no possibility of simply investing the funds back into the Crucible: "You can't compare the two. This was capital, not revenue expenditure. Funds from the council were provided for the specific purpose of renovation. You'd find it much easier to get a loan to renovate a building than to put on a production."

RHWL built the Crucible, restored the Lyceum and renovated London's Old Vic amongst other theatre projects. Many theatres, however, are in such a state of disrepair that their managements cannot afford to refurbish them. Whenever it rains, the basement in London's Theatre Royal, Stratford East, is flooded. The drains need repairing, and the paint is peeling. Theatre Royal, Norwich, requires a £3.5 million refurbishment before it can ever re-open. Ian Kellgren, artistic director of the Liverpool Playhouse, which is currently £300,000 in the red, says the theatre was threatened with closure if it failed to replace its carpet, at a cost of £60,000.

"Often it's the smaller regular maintenance costs which companies find hard to keep up with," says Charles Morgan, co-ordinator of the recent Autumn 90 Theatre Campaign. "You can get very excited about the major restoration of a theatre, and then find there's nothing going on inside it."



Stephen Barry at the Lyceum Theatre: "We'll survive in the long term because the number of touring companies is steadily growing"

Maintaining the building becomes too expensive."

David Thacker, artistic director of the Young Vic, has a bucket on his desk to collect the dripping water. He says: "We've managed to raise £100,000 in the last two years towards repairs, but the money had to come out of revenue funds, so our production schedule has suffered considerably." The Young Vic has been plagued by maintenance problems, exacerbated by the fact that the building was designed to be temporary.

Many theatres are not restored at all. London's Lyceum, for example, is rotting away in the heart of the West End. Bought in 1988 by Brent Walker, a leisure property group, it still remains disused and boarded up.

The homeless sleep behind its darkened portico, and old newspaper reviews still peep down from corners of the building. "Dazzling," reads one. According to Brent Walker, there are "plans for redevelopment", though refurbishment seems highly unlikely at the moment given the company's financial difficulties.

At the other extreme, where major refurbishments are carried out, theatres will rely on popular stars and safe commercial options to break even. Major theatres in Portsmouth, Newcastle and Bath have been painstakingly restored, and the Darlington Civic Theatre has just re-opened after a refurbishment of £1.5 million. With Des O'Connor and Showaddywaddy billed as future attractions, the renovation is more than likely to pay off.

Theatre companies neglect their buildings at their peril. Licensing regulations are stricter than ever, and fire officers are rightly more interested in faulty wiring than artistic beauty. "If you don't take care of a leaking roof, you won't have a roof over your head," says John Earl, director of the Theatres Trust, an organisation which tries to prevent the demolition of theatres.

Companies may be faced with the dilemma of spending precious funds either on more productions, or further maintenance. Striking a balance is not easy when £150,000 could cover electrical re-wiring in a large theatre, or fund three new productions at the Young Vic. When it comes to revamping or maintaining a Victorian theatre, there are relatively few contractors who are skilled in carrying out the

decorative plasterwork. Work in a listed building is at any rate limited to a bare minimum, which is a headache for architects having to alter the entrance of old theatres to meet modern requirements: social etiquette in the 19th century called for special access into the auditorium for the upper classes.

Faced nowadays with the grim possibility that theatre is getting less popular, as suggested by the latest quarterly arts report, *Cultural Trends* (published tomorrow by the Policy Studies Institute), companies may skimp even more on essential maintenance. The money is not always there to get the best electrical equipment, but the best productions will no doubt be as electric as ever. For Sheffield's Lyceum, with every facility at its disposal, a new era is certainly dawning.

MUSIC

Affable maestro behind the images

Henry Mancini, in London to record a new album, talks to Clive Davis about his career

Lunchtime at Abbey Road recording studios. Henry Mancini's orchestra put their violins and horns aside and join the queue for the canteen. They seem glad of the rest: nothing quite compares with the boredom endured by session players. Mancini lingers in the studio, patiently listening to playback of the morning's work. He is in London to record a collection of film music by Ennio Morricone and Nino Rota.

Mancini has been playing his trade as a writer and arranger of screen scores for almost 40 years. Four Oscars and 20 Grammy awards testify to his skill. The paradox is that he makes his living by crafting music which goes unannounced most of the time. As he once said of one of his many assignments: "If anyone watching could recognise that it was my writing, I shouldn't have been doing the job."

He has, of course, worked on some memorable productions. His new RCA Victor album, *Mancini in Surround* (recorded on the Dolby Surround system) unearthly some lesser-known, not to say downright obscure films. Few cinema-goers will remember much about *Mommie Dearest*, apart from Fay Dunaway's overacting. They are even less likely to recall Blake Edwards' *Sunset* or *The White Dawn*. The 1979 version of *The Prisoner of Zenda* certainly does stick in the mind, but only because it was one of the worst Peter Sellers comedies of all time. The writer of the sleeve notes does his best to be tactful on this one: "Spotting the venerated classic", he writes, "proved not to be the success the producers had hoped for."

The list goes on: Michael Caine

as Sherlock Holmes in *Without a Clue*; Bert Reynolds in *The Man Who Loved Women*. *Nighwing*, we are told, was a tale of vampire bats on an Indian reservation. The one noteworthy title is Hitchcock's *Frenzy*. Ironically, Mancini's theme was not used on film. Hitchcock, curiously, decided that it was "too menacing". "He didn't complain during the recording," says Mancini. "He just sat there, bobbing his head, and there was champagne afterwards, the whole thing. Beware of those who give you champagne after sessions."

At 66, Mancini is an affable character, with none of the affectations that might be expected from one who has worked for so long in Hollywood. He bears the questions about "Moon River" and "The Pink Panther" with good humour, and he enjoys talking about his apprenticeship as a musician. The son of Italian immigrants, he was once a pianist, arranger with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, in the years following Miller's death.

His experience proved useful after Mancini abandoned the life of a travelling musician to join the music department of Universal Studios. When *The Glenn Miller Story* went into production, Mancini worked on the score, picking up his first Oscar nomination. Over the next five years he was kept busy on the studio production line, where assignments could range from *Creature From The Black Lagoon* to Orson Welles's *Touch of Evil*.

He went independent in 1958, and soon began his long-running association with the director Blake Edwards. Their first collaboration was a television series, *Peter Gunn*. Since then Mancini has



Henry Mancini. "Beware of those who give you champagne"

provided the music for more than 25 films by Edwards. *Breakfast At Tiffany's* brought him two Academy Awards in 1962, the following year he was a winner again for *Days of Wine and Roses*. His last Oscar was awarded for *Victor/Victoria* in 1983. Yet when many film soundtracks are little more than a flimsy sequence of Top 40 tunes, he believes the role of the composer is under threat.

"When I used to work for Stanley Donen on *Arabesque* or *Charade*, he was the boss. I'd give the music to him, and he'd say whether or not he liked it. The same with Blake Edwards. Today, when you go to a major studio, you have to run the gauntlet. You have to please the producer, the marketing people, the staff in music publishing. It gets very hard to keep a sense of humour about it."

"I don't like the way rock music is often used. It's not always done for the good of the picture. The executives say, well, if the album does well, it'll help the picture. But I haven't heard of an album saving a picture."

For the next Edwards production, Mancini has abandoned the orchestral approach and switched to electronics. Strings, he explains, can now make some films appear dated. He does not seem entirely happy about the move. But whatever the shortcomings of the film industry, there are still the financial rewards. This is the man who owns 75 per cent of the composing and publishing rights on "The Pink Panther" theme. The tune took him roughly half an hour to compose. Hollywood, he says, is the only game in town.

TELEVISION

Falls and failings

A NIGHT of high drama, what with Marie being hurled to her death from the roof gardens of the House of Commons — not a place many journalists will venture in search of future interviews, especially if they happen to be with a murderous prime minister. The ultimate triumph of *House of Cards*, Andrew Davies' four-part thriller derived for BBC 1 from the Michael Dobbs novel of party political chicanery, was that it managed to avoid a descent into total farce as Ian Richardson went about killing off his rivals for Downing Street with all the eventual subtlety of a combine harvester run amok.

"You might think that I could not possibly comment," could become the commercial catchphrase of the 1990s, and the only regret as the series came to a close last night was that there appeared to be no plans for a sequel. We left Richardson on his way to the Palace for a triumphant audience with the Queen, who will presumably have been counting her royal fingers after their handshake.

But an intriguing glimpse of a prime minister being set up by a traitor, and a hint of a hint of future battles in the far corner of the ring, suggests that somebody somewhere in the corridors of BBC drama may have noticed the ratings on this one and wisely decided that it will have to be extended.

Not so much *Yes, Prime Minister* as *Watch Your Back, Prime Minister*, the best pre-Christmas treat of the winter schedules has turned out to be *House of Cards*, not least because of Richardson's relish at being allowed to play Richard III in modern tailoring and without the bump.

But the real drama of last night came from Tony Palmer's two-hour *Mennhina* — A Family Portrait for Channel 4. Palmer has

been accused in the past of a Ken Russellish determination to overdramatise his subjects to the point where every portrait becomes a caricature. But on this occasion, a restrained, cool and careful picture was drawn of Yehudi Menuhin, a man still dominated by his own child prodigy beginnings and the dominant women who have always sheltered him from reality. Sisters, wives, mothers all talked of their divine mission to keep Menuhin pure for his instrument, untainted by an outside world and untouched by any untoward influences. As a result, when real life did intrude in the shape of a divorce and his post-war tour of the concentration camps, Menuhin took several years to recover from the shock.

Commendably, Menuhin's children by his first marriage talked openly of his failings as a father, but also of their eventual third-generation realisation that a prodigy is always going to remain a prodigy first, and a parent only second. Those who prefer their musicians at a safe distance on the podium may have had some uneasy moments at the trauma of Menuhin's life, but for the most part, Menuhin is never going to sound quite the same again. As usual, the frailties of the man seem only to have increased the greatness of the artist.

Elsewhere the best laugh of the night came from the final episode of Peter Paganella's splendid *Nippon* series for BBC 2, wherein a panel of Japanese quiz contestants were seen trying to fathom what a fox hunt might be, and to what purpose. It is enjoyed, explained their host, exclusively by very rich landowners who hardly seem to work at all. The Japanese giggled politely and went back to taking over the world by micro-technology. So inscrutable, these English, and they all look alike on horseback.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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CHRISTIE'S

THIS monumental head was originally from one of over six hundred statues of the goddess Sekhmet which lined the Temple of Mut in Karnak. Built over 3,000 years ago by Amenophis III, the temple's remains are still visible today. Sekhmet was the Memphite goddess of destruction and became identified with the Theban goddess Mut, thus amalgamating the political centre of Memphis with the spiritual capital of Thebes during the reign of Amenophis III. This outstanding head is included in the sale of Antiquities at Christie's, King Street on Wednesday, 12 December at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

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85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7

BBC 1

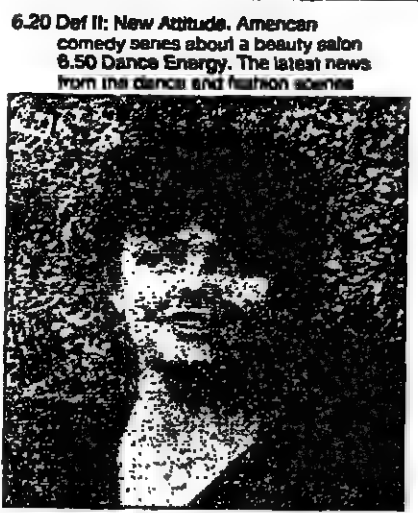
6.00 Ceeleat
6.30 BBC Breakfast News
6.50 Daytime UK: 9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. Quiz hosted by Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day: How to turn a meal into a real event 9.30 People Today
7.00 Rinko Phillips and the Open Line team tackle viewer calls and letters
7.10 Arken gives tips on flower arranging
7.20 News, regional news and weather
10.05 Children's BBC: Playdays (r) 10.25 Barney, Cartoon (r) 10.35 People Today. Including the Kitchen Call phone-in 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Glik hosts a discussion on ghosts
11.45 Before Noon 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Antiques Roadshow Gems. Memorable moments from the Antiques Roadshow, introduced by Hugh Scully 12.20 Scene Today 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, Weather
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceeleat)
1.50 Going for Gold, Euro-quiz

2.15 Starkey and Hutch: Photo Finish. Cops and robbers in downtown Los Angeles with Paul Michael Glasser and David Sauter (r)
3.05 Hudson and Hight. The camp cooks are joined by the actress Lorraine Chase to create the perfect winter dinner party menu: osso buco and an original recipe for trassu
3.25 Head of the Class: Real Problems. American high school comedy
3.50 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam. Cartoon 4.00 A Bear Behind 4.10 The New York Bear Show (r) 4.20 Happy Families 4.25 Thundercats. Cartoon 4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter, (Ceeleat)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceeleat). Northern Ireland: Sportsweek: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines.
6.40 Northern Ireland Neighbours. The guests are members of the Oliver family, the actress Joan Plowright, her son Richard and daughters Tamsin and Julie-Kate
7.30 Watchdog. In the entertaining consumer magazine, Bill Hareham warns people from Lancashire for whom the dream of building their own homes turned sour

8.00 Telly Addicts. Two families of goggle-box goggleers battle it out in the final
8.30 Susan Mothers Do 'Ave Em. Michael Crawford as accident-prone Frank Spencer, with Michele Dotrice as his patient and doting wife. Feeling that he is a failure, Frank wants a psychiatrist, and you can guess the rest
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Burk. Regional News and weather
9.30 Panorama: Mr Ridley's Europe. Nicholas Ridley as one of the fiercest opponents of European union in the Conservative party, and regards it as the fundamental issue for the Nineties. As heads of government meet in Rome, Anthony Howard takes Ridley on a tour of Europe, where he meets MEPs, the mayor of the reunited Berlin, and the editor of the German newspaper Die Zeit, and argues his case for opposing greater economic and monetary union
10.10 Manoeuvre FBI: Death and Taxes. Robert Loggia as the hard-nosed FBI agent. Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom: 10.35 Ulster in Focus
11.00 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. Music and news clips from 1976 (r)
11.30 Advice Shop (r) 12.00 Weather

BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster
8.30 A Living Antiquary. A profile of Hilary of Hampshire, nurserymen to the royal family (r)
9.00 Laverne and Shirley. American sitcom (r)
9.25 Water under the Bridge. A three-part Australian mini-series based on the novel by Sumner Locke Elliott (r)
10.55 After Hours. Keeping warm, Canadian style
11.15 The Invisible Man (r)
12.00 Impressions: The Miller. A portrait of Yorkshireman George Leat, a well-known judge in the dog world (r)
12.15 Amazon Gold: The Treasure of Serra Pelada. The discovery in 1980 of a rich concentration of alluvial gold in the Amazon delta of Brazil (r)
1.05 The Gun. A history of the firearm (r) 1.20 Pigeon Street. Cartoon (r) 1.35 Curry on the loose. Improve your staking with John Curry (r)
2.00 News and weather, followed by Songs of Praise. From Tooting, south London (r). (Ceeleat)
2.35 Six Faces of Royalty: Victoria - from Canvas to Celluloid. Sir Roy Strong looks at pictorial representations of Queen Victoria (r)
2.50 Behind the Screen. Fiona Adams on BBC TV's preparations for the coming festive season
3.00 News and weather, followed by Wideworld: Ghana Coffins. Ghanaians bury their dead in coffins reflecting the deceased's occupation. Our God the Conductor. Villagers in the Peruvian Andes stage an annual ritual battle between a conductor and a bull (r) 3.50 News and weather. Regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Word game
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Janet Corbin and guests discuss the Palestinian issue, looking at possible options for the future and the likely impact of the Gulf crisis
5.00 Film: Step Live! (1944, b/w). Sparkling musical version of the Broadway farce Room Service, in which Frank Sinatra stars as a young playwright whose singing talent comes to the rescue of a Broadway producer (George Murphy). Directed by Tim Whelan



Bitter experience: Aileen Quinlan (7.30pm)

6.20 Def II: New Attitude. American comedy series about a beauty salon
6.50 Dance Energy. The latest news from the dance floor
7.30 Open Space: Disaster Never Ends. CHOICE: The community access series is given over to survivors and victims of public tragedies such as the Remembrance Day bombing of Enniskillen, the King's Cross fire and the Marchioness riverboat collision, who speak movingly and often bitterly about their experience and show that post-traumatic stress is only a part of it. There is agreement that the initial shock is compounded by the way victims are treated, with psychological and social support from the caring agencies patchy, disorganised or non-existent. There is bitterness at the insensitivity of officials and public bodies, with particular criticism of Inquests, lawyers, caring agencies and trust funds. Even chance remarks meant for the best can be hurtful. Aileen Quinlan, whose mother was killed at Enniskillen, had people telling her how lucky she was to be alive when she almost lost it would rather be dead. (Ceeleat). Wales: 3.45 Day in Wales (r) 4.00-4.10 The Hit Man and the Girl
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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 10 1990

New chief to head shake-up at BTR

ALAN JACKSON, the Australian who takes over as chief executive of BTR in three weeks, plans a substantial spring-cleaning operation that could see wide-ranging disposals and a return to the acquisition trail.

He is instigating a review at BTR, Britain's ninth largest quoted company by turnover and a conglomerate that makes a huge range of industrial products, in conjunction with the chairman, Sir Owen Green.

Neither was available yesterday for comment on the potential restructuring. Sir Owen indicated last week that he was keen to reduce the diversity of BTR's operations, while Mr Jackson has said that there are surplus businesses that could be sold to generate more cash for further expansion.

BTR's acquisition record has not been impressive of late. It lost a 1987 bid for Pilkington, the glassmaker, while an approach for Norton, the American abrasives manufacturer, was trumped by another glass company, Saint-Gobain of France.

Times page 25

MCA rejects Yosemite donation plea

EXECUTIVES of the film-maker MCA, due to share almost £300 million in fees from the \$6.6 billion takeover by Matsushita, the Japanese electronics giant, have rejected an American government request to donate its Yosemite National Park concessions to the nation.

A letter to Lew Wasserman, MCA chairman, from Manuel Lujan, the interior secretary, requested that he donate the hotels and hamburger businesses, valued at about \$150 million, to the Yosemite authorities before the buyout by the Japanese was completed.

But the plea was turned down by MCA, which said the park concessions formed part of the deal with Matsushita. But in what is seen as a move to head off any backlash against the Japanese, MCA has agreed to donate profits from the food and lodging operations to the National Park Foundation until a new buyer for them is found.

VW wins bid for Skoda
VOLKSWAGEN last night emerged as the winner in the takeover battle for Skoda, the Czechoslovakian car company. The long-awaited decision, taken by the national government last night, disappointed Renault which also made an offer.

Volkswagen aims to take a majority stake in eastern Europe's most established car company and is offering to invest DM8 billion. Renault promised Fr13 billion, just over half as much.

Petr Pithart, the Czech prime minister, said last night: "The government is preparing the contract with the German automobile firm."

THE POUND
CHANGE ON WEEK
US dollar 1.9510 (+0.0085)
W German mark 2.8806 (-0.0296)
Exchange index 93.5 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1723.8 (+41.0)
FT-SE 100 2183.4 (+34.0)
New York Dow Jones 2580.10 (+30.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23522.49 (+1067.86)

TOURIST RATES
Australia \$ 2,985
Austria \$ 2,445
Belgium Fr 62.85
Canada \$ 2,265
Denmark Dkr 11.00
Federal DMk 7.32
France Fr 10.19
Germany DM 3.01
Greece Dr 319
Hong Kong \$ 15.70
Ireland Ir 1.28
Italy Lit 2270
Japan Yen 170
Netherlands Gld 11.82
Norway Kr 4.80
Portugal Esc 266
South Africa Rd 5.30
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 11.29
Switzerland Fr 2.57
Turkey Lira 2,028
USA \$ 1.95
Yugoslavia Dnr 35.00

Administrators at Levitt after Fimbria enquiry

By JON ASHWORTH

A BREACH of capital adequacy requirements led to the appointment of administrators at the Levitt Group, one of Britain's largest financial services companies, at the weekend.

Financial regulators have been investigating the affairs of the company and Roger Levitt, the chairman, for at least two months, it has emerged. Administrators were appointed late on Friday, after the group missed the deadline for filing its audited accounts.

Officials of Fimbria, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, and members of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the administrator, were at the group's West End offices yesterday.

Signs of trouble at the company, which made its name and fortune selling pensions and insurance schemes to celebrities and large corporations, emerged during a routine audit by Fimbria two months ago. Compliance officers found large sums of money had been paid into accounts from an unclear source.

It appeared that the cash, thought to total £21 million, had been paid in by Mr Levitt. Fimbria extended its enquiries, checking the invoices against names and assessing the state of capital held on

account for the group's 18,000 clients. Two weeks ago, at Fimbria's insistence, Mr Levitt was asked to step down as director of the Levitt Group, the core financial services operation, which is a Fimbria member. He remains chairman of Levitt Group Holdings, the parent company.

Fimbria's role in the enquiry had been kept secret in an effort to prevent panic among clients, whom it was feared would rush to withdraw funds. Sebastian Coe was one of a handful of celebrities who acted as "consultants" to introduce business to the group until he resigned last month.

After Mr Levitt stepped down, the new directors, including Frederick Tucker, Levitt's former number two, set about seeking additional funds to meet Fimbria's capital adequacy requirements. They failed in their task and a decision was taken to call the administrators in.

Fimbria is expected to make a statement on the affair today. It is continuing its investigations, but client money is not thought to be at risk.

However, the picture is believed to be confused by book-keeping techniques, which have made it difficult to distinguish Mr Levitt's own funds from those of the group. Stoy Hayward, the firm's auditor, who also audited the

accounts of Polly Peck and Astra Holdings, was unavailable for comment yesterday. Mr Levitt was at his office in Great Portland Street, central London, but said: "I'm not making any comment."

The news will come as a shock to Levitt's core institutional investors, including Legal & General, General Accident, and Commercial Union. In the past year they each paid £5 million to £7 million for stakes of 4.9 per cent in the holding company.

Mr Levitt began courting the institutions in earnest this year after buying back a 33 per cent stake in his company from LIT, the Chicago financial services group. He paid £15.5 million for the stake and almost immediately began selling it off in "strategic" 4.9 per cent blocks.

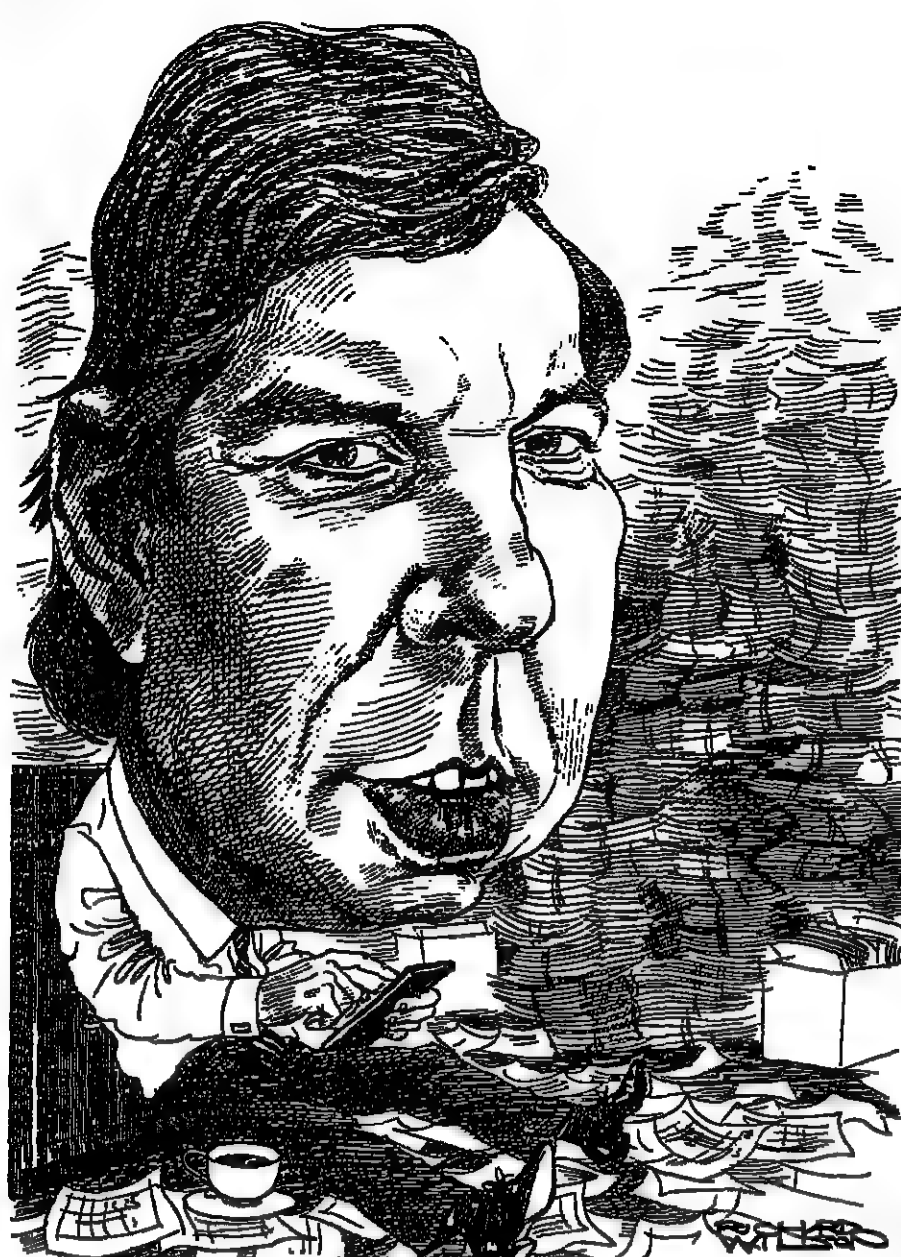
L&G set the ball rolling when it paid £5 million for one such stake. The deal had strategic advantages, since the Levitt group was one of L&G's largest providers of new business. The two companies had also teamed up on a venture to supply commercial mortgages.

Chase Manhattan paid £5 million for an identical stake, followed in June by General Accident which paid £7.3 million. Commercial Union also paid £7.3 million. The latter deals valued the company at £150 million.

Set up in 1976, the Levitt Group took 12 years to become a well-known name in the elite world of financial services. It became known as a provider of executive pension plans and branched out to offer a one-stop package of employee benefits. This year, it focused on the needs of senior company directors, offering them a way round the pensions cap, which limited pensionable earnings at an indexed base of £60,000.

The group relied on a core of about 50 salesmen and women, many of whom had made their names at rival firms. Mr Levitt had also initiated several joint ventures with companies in Continental Europe, including a lucrative venture in the Netherlands, and was pressing on with plans to expand in America and move into the Far East.

Flamboyant rise, page 25



Power of allocation: David Clementi, who is leading the team at Kleinwort Benson

Pirelli set to ask investors to back Continental coup

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE truce in the bid battle between Pirelli, the Italian tyre company, and Continental, its German rival, is likely to end shortly. Pirelli is about to call a shareholders' meeting at Continental in order to force a takeover of the German group.

Pirelli, which launched its bid in September, has relied on talks with Continental management, led by Horst Urban, chief executive. But it has become clear that Herr Urban is opposed to a deal.

The companies' financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell, acting for Continental, and Merrill Lynch, for Pirelli, are producing a valuation of both concerns, but this is seen by Pirelli as a ploy to continue the stalemate.

Pirelli claims more than 51 per cent of Continental shareholders support the merger plans, but the Italians have so far refused to call an

extraordinary general meeting for fear of pushing Continental into an openly hostile bid battle.

The meeting is necessary to overthrow the 5 per cent voting restriction. Pirelli, although prepared to negotiate the deal terms, is not willing to yield on the principal sticking point, its insistence in taking a majority stake.

Pirelli's reluctance to agree to a joint-venture company comes after its disastrous alliance with Dunlop in the Seventies. Because the two companies were unable to operate joint manufacturing operations, they failed to benefit from economies of scale, which, for Pirelli, is the main reason for its bid for Continental.

The Italian company wants to streamline its own management with Continental three years after the bid. This would include reorganisation of fac-

tories and possible job losses if the slowdown in the tyre industries continues, as is widely expected.

Pirelli is upset over a pledge made by Herr Urban that there will be no redundancies if Continental stays independent. His promise is widely seen as an attempt to placate the workforce, whose representatives hold 50 per cent of the seats on the supervisory board.

It is also understood that, after a merger, Pirelli will want to challenge Michelin's dominant position in the tyre market for commercial vehicles and trucks. In Europe Michelin has a 50 per cent market share and substantially higher margins. The world tyre markets for commercial and private vehicles are about the same size, although Pirelli and Continental are under-represented in both areas.

Power sell-off attracts 5.7m

By MARTIN WALLER

THE advisers to the power industry flotation will today announce that most of the 5.7 million people who have applied for shares in the electricity distributors' float will have their applications heavily scaled down.

A large number will not receive any shares at all, so popular has been the £5.2 billion privatisation. In all 12 areas, customers applying for the minimum 100 shares will be satisfied in full.

But in one of the 12, SEEBOARD, non-customers applying for the bare minimum will be scaled down to 90. Any applying for more will get nothing, as will customers looking for more than 1,000.

Last night the exact allocations were being worked out. The float, masterminded by a team at Kleinwort Benson led by David Clementi, the director, has now been formally declared the most popular privatisation ever.

A total of 12.75 million applications have been received, and on a fully paid basis £17 billion has been put up by members of the public towards shares worth £2.8 billion.

Before the various clawback provisions were triggered and shares redirected from the institutions to the general public, the offer was 10.7 times subscribed. This compares with about 10 times on the part of the smaller Brush Telecom and Rolls-Royce privatisations.

The basis of allocation is being worked out to favour the customer and the smaller investor. In total, 10.2 million applications were for 500 shares or less, and about a quarter of customers will receive all they have applied for, while just 3 per cent will get no allocation at all.

The least popular, in terms of subscription, were London and Southern, both about 7.2 times subscribed. At the other end of the scale is South Wales, almost 15 times subscribed.

The difference is almost entirely because of the differing size of the companies, claim the float's advisers. The actual number of applications received for all 12 is not that varied, ranging from 1.25 million for Eastern, the largest, to 870,000 for South West.

The effect of the scale-back is at its most pronounced in five of the 12 areas, South Wales, Manweb, Northern, SEEBOARD and South West, where non-customers wanting more than 200 shares will get nothing.

More Berisford sales to follow Sugar

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BERISFORD International, the commodities trading and property group, will continue its programme of asset disposals, after selling British Sugar, Europe's third largest sugar refiner, to Associated British Foods, the bakery group.

The deal, worth about £880 million, follows an auction conducted by Schroders, the merchant bank. Proceeds will virtually halve Berisford's debt and leave shareholders' funds at about £350 million.

Under the agreement, ABF will pay £583 million to Berisford, in addition to taking on £217 million of debt and providing its current

working capital requirements. John Slater, who became chairman of Berisford in March after the resignation of Ephraim Margulies, has pledged to continue a programme of asset sales to the benefit of the company's shareholders, the largest being ABF itself.

"We are in a better position to sort out the remaining baggage," he said. "We can now deal at prices we like rather than the ones that were forced upon us."

Of the remaining businesses, he said they were a "heterogeneous collection of assets but substantial businesses. The next job is to rationalise the remaining businesses." The other interests of

the company, believed to be worth about £400 million, include property in New York and Britain, agricultural businesses, including cocoa and food ingredients, and financial services.

It is believed the new-look Berisford will build a company around other agricultural interests. The financial services side of the business will be first to go, while properties will be sold when property markets pick up.

Mr Slater will remain chairman of the company. Peter Jacobs, chief executive, will also remain.

The company will today announce the preliminary results for its last financial year. With the acquisition of British

Sugar, ABF has taken the decision to take responsibility for the entire British beet sugar industry. The industry, although highly profitable throughout Europe, depends for its profits on Europe's much-reviled common agricultural policy, which the European Community was urged to modify during the ill-fated Gatt talks.

Beet sugar is more expensive than cane sugar. In Europe, prices are held artificially high, while producers outside the Community occasionally dump surplus produce at prices below cost. However, even in the absence of subsidies, cane sugar would still have a significant price advantage over beet sugar.

The production of cane sugar is a crucial industry in many developing countries, particularly in the West Indies, which at present has an agreement with the European Community to export 1.3 million tonnes of cane sugar per annum, refined in Portugal and Britain by Tate & Lyle.

With criticisms over the common agricultural policy increasing throughout Europe the beet industry is likely to come under some squeeze during the Nineties.

non-executive directors, proposed Tate & Lyle bid referred to MMC. July: Tate & Lyle decides not to bid for Berisford, which invites offers for its assets after £144.5 million interim loss and no dividend.

July: ABF considers Berisford bid. September: Tate & Lyle re-enters race for Berisford. December: ABF bids £880 million for British Sugar. Berisford sales continue.

Tortuous path to close the deal

1982: Berisford buys British Sugar from government for £282 million.
1986: Ferruzzi approaches Berisford. Tate & Lyle bids £478 million for British Sugar, Hilldown Holdings bids £486 million, both referred to MMC and blocked by DTL.
1987: Ferruzzi bids £425 million for 70 per cent of British Sugar, also thrown out.
1987: Tate & Lyle sells 15 per

cent stake to the Pritzker family and directors. Associated British Foods bids £767 million for Berisford. Bid dropped after crash.
1990: March: Ephraim Margulies resigns as chairman. John Slater takes over. Berisford asks Tate & Lyle to consider race for Berisford. Tate & Lyle seeks OFT opinion on bid. May: Sir John Egan and Brian Smith join as

modest 0.2 per cent, after tumbling 1.1 per cent in October. The City will be watching closely for any confirmation of the picture in the latest consumer credit figures of a surge in borrowing.
Labour market data are expected to show average earnings growing at an unchanged 10.25 per cent, while unemployment rose by about 32,000 last month. New invisibles estimates could bring a sharp improvement in the third-quarter current account deficit, after a £5.1 billion second-quarter deficit.
October industrial output data on Friday are, meanwhile, likely to provide

Lower inflation points to rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE retail price index this week will show headline inflation dropping sharply, possibly providing the government with a fresh chance to cut base rates.

Market forecasts centre on inflation falling into single figures last month, mainly reflecting the impact of mortgage rate changes this year and last, to an annual 9.7 per cent, after two months stuck at its 10.9 per cent peak.

The RPI will be released on Friday as European Community leaders meet in

union, which could unsettle the foreign exchange market.

Though falling inflation in Britain will be good news for Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, other indicators of core inflation offer a less positive picture.

Apart from the RPI, the welter of economic statistics this week is expected to confirm that the economy continues to slow while underlying inflation persists. Producer price data today are expected to show output prices rising at an annual 5.8 per cent last month, unchanged from October, while input prices fall, reflecting the drop in oil prices.

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حکومت المال

Thank goodness for Ray MacSharry. The European agricultural commissioner, backed by his stage army of French peasant thugs, finally overplayed his hand on Friday by causing the collapse of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks in Brussels.

As a result, the world is now faced with the choice between two kinds of economic warfare. Either there will be an international trade war with America, resulting in the worst economic depression since the Thirties. Or European politicians will have to begin an all-out attack on their own farmers. Since Europe has not entirely lost leave of its senses, it is obvious which of these two choices is the more likely.

The timing for a concerted attack against European farmers is perfect. For the first time in decades, the threat of a genuine trade war from America is credible. The country is falling into recession, its fear of communism in Europe has vanished, its commitment to Nato is wavering and American public opinion is seething with resentment against

Germany and France for their feeble response to the Gulf confrontation. The temptation to make Europe a scapegoat is therefore great.

At the same time Europe is more vulnerable than ever to American protectionism. The fall of the dollar has made key European industries so uncompetitive that small additional measures might be enough to destroy such shaky projects as the Airbus and to cripple other "national champions" like Siemens in telecommunications, Philips in consumer electronics, Olivetti in computers and even Mercedes and BMW in luxury cars.

Politically, the way that agricultural spending has dominated the Community's budget is also becoming an ever more obvious obstacle to European union. The urgent need to help eastern Europe also points to opening up agricultural markets and the eventual abolition of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Reaper nears for European farmers

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Finally, and most importantly, there is the politics of farming itself. European voters are waking up to conservation, the environment and even animal rights. They are beginning to realise that large-scale intensive farmers are among the greatest despoilers of the countryside and the worst abusers of animals and nature in Europe. For decades, the Common Agricultural Policy was justified on the grounds that it would preserve rural tradition — the peasant homesteads and hedges, the homemade salamis and handmade cheeses — which Europe justifiably valued above the availability of cheap processed food. But the CAP is manifestly failing as an instrument of conservation.

Hedgerows are being flattened and ancient oaks felled to make room for prairie farms. Half-timbered barns are being replaced with prefabricated chicken factories. The reason is simple. Instead of targeting aid to traditional small farmers, the CAP boosts food prices for all and therefore distributes most of the largesse to the biggest producers.

Subsidies

The obvious alternative would be a system of direct income subsidies for small farmers, perhaps described as "husbandry" payments and linked to the conservation of nature.

Such a system would not need to restrict imports or subsidise exports and would be acceptable to America and other agricultural trading nations. Why then, is it opposed by Mr MacSharry and his peasant army?

Allegedly the reason is that small farmers are "too proud" to accept direct government hand-outs, even for being "guardians of the countryside." The reality is more cynical, but equally misguided. All farmers, large and small, realise that direct CAP payments are only the tip of the iceberg of agricultural subsidies. The greatest support for farmers comes not from cash payments but from the extraordinarily high food prices sustained by Europe's import quotas. While European voters might agree to redirect CAP payments to small farmers, it is almost inconceivable that they would consciously pay high taxes on food, foregoing the immense benefits of lower prices. Thus, any attempts to open the

Common Agricultural Policy can of worms would be a disaster for large growers of cereals and other internationally traded bulk products. But this would not necessarily be true for small farmers who benefited from husbandry payments and chose to specialise in high-value niche products like organic farming or specialty cheeses.

The reason is that high food prices do not help the people who actually work on the farm. The benefits flow mainly through to land prices. The real beneficiaries of CAP are not farmers but agricultural rentiers, be they earls, pension funds or mortgage banks.

Ironically, the peasants whom the Common Agricultural Policy is supposedly helping, can realise the benefits of agricultural protectionism only when they sell or mortgage their land. This suggests that only one "transitional relief" would be needed for the gradual abolition of the policy: allow small farmers who have recently taken out mortgages on artificially inflated land values to walk away from their debts.

TEMPUS

BTR heads predators in bargain basement



On the lookout: Brian McGowan (left) and Nigel Rudd with Minorco holding a 36 per cent stake. The ultimate resolution of this tangle is far from clear. But after a massive restructuring in the past two years Charter is keen to plough its own furrow.

Other likely predators include the cash rich ADT, Lombar and BAT, which has a severe advance corporation tax problem and badly needs UK earnings. Maybe corporate finance is not such a bad business to be in after all.

ASCoT

THE stock market is hostile to shares of small companies and especially to small investment

trusts lacking liquidity. A small trust investing in the shares of small companies does not, therefore, seem the ideal vehicle to catch the fair wind of fashion.

In October, Guinness Mahon launched the £15 million Smaller Companies Investment Trust (SCIT) at £1 a share. The shares now stand at 70p. The initial placing included a one-for-five warrant that stands at 18p, but that still leaves places sitting on a 26 per cent paper loss.

This is not an auspicious precedent for Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust (or ASCoT), which also started via a £15 million placing at £1 a share including a one-for-five warrant, and whose shares will be quoted from today.

James Capel, ASCoT's adviser, is confident that it will have a cheerier reception. Most of SCIT's start-up portfolio was made up of shares swapped by its institutional backers, which saves costs but restricts the managers' initial flair.

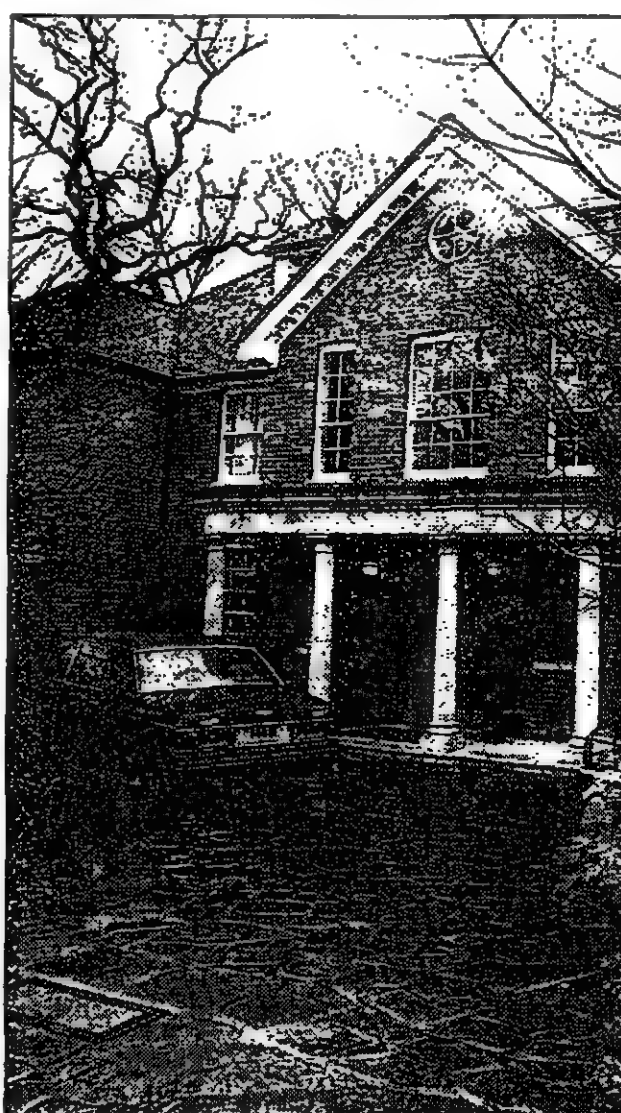
ASCoT is all new money, managed by specialists, formerly at Ivory & Sims, who are keen to make a good impression with the first trust from their new stable Aberforth Partners. ASCoT also has a liquidation option at five years, rather than SCIT's ten years, to control the discount. For potential new investors who like to buck the trend, however, the bigger the discount the better. The whole point of both launches is that this is a good time to buy shares in smaller companies, which should recover disproportionately when share prices rise and stock market trading returns to more normal levels.

Over the 35 years to end 1989, smaller companies on the Hoare Govett index showed an average annual total return of 19.9 per cent compound, against 14.6 per cent on the all share index. In the succeeding ten months, when small companies were thought more recession-prone, they lost a net 22.9 per cent, noticeably worse than the 14.1 per cent on the index. The long-term trends will surely re-emerge. Trusts offer an ideal way of spreading the inevitable risk of investing in individual smaller companies. Meanwhile, trust promoters might ponder whether they have quite worked out the best technique for raising money.

EDITED BY JOHN BELL

Flamboyant rise may leave Levitt counting his friends

Jon Ashworth looks at the man behind the troubled Levitt Group



Luxury lifestyle: Levitt's Highgate home and Bentley

ROGER Levitt has always been attracted to the celebrity lifestyle. Surrounded by pop stars and leading sportsmen and with a well-kept Davidoff cigar close at hand, he set out to sell financial services to the rich and famous. He built up his Levitt Group into a small, tightly knit sales machine, luring a core of hard-nosed salesmen and women with the promise of huge commissions and using a rigid system of book-keeping.

Mr Levitt wanted to be the biggest and best and he took pains to achieve his goal. He aimed straight for the top, rather than trying to sell small life insurance and pensions policies to the man in the street. He befriended a small network of celebrities, including Adam Faith, the former pop star, and Lennox Lewis, the boxer, and through them won an exclusive entrée to a captive and wealthy audience eager to do business.

Whether mingling with the racing set at Epsom or supporting Arsenal, his favourite football team, from the comfort of his box at the north London ground, Mr Levitt found that business was never far away.

Companies were the other side of the coin. One big contract with a sizeable corporation would bring thousands of employees within reach, each ripe for a pension plan or insurance contract and leaving Levitt without the trouble of trying to sell contracts individually. Levitt's top salesmen, including Bruce King, a former Allied Dunbar top commission earner, visited companies in search of "the big one", the pot of gold at the end of the financial serv-

ices rainbow. Lucrative contracts, sales commissions and yet more cash for the Levitt account were the rewards.

Mr Levitt was known as much for his colourful personality as for his corporate ambitions. His taste for Davidoff cigars, handmade and down in from Cuba, cost the best part of £900 a month. He has confessed to smoking his way through two boxes in three weeks, with each box retailing at £333. He was often seen in his Bentley, being chauffeured from his home at

Highgate, north London, to his office in Great Portland Street in the West End.

The latest turn of events may do little to dent Mr Levitt's flamboyant lifestyle. In January, he paid cash for a 33 per cent stake held in the company by LIT, the Chicago futures and options group, and has since made a sizeable return on his investment. Soon after, he sold small stakes in the group to a handful of institutions, including Commercial Union, Legal & General, and Chase Man-

harian. He is not short of cash.

Mr Levitt has also been looking overseas. The group has entered into several joint ventures in continental Europe and in Cyprus and had planned to expand in North America and the Far East. The key was to see where local financial services groups were weak and take advantage. Mr Levitt has been a frequent visitor to the group's new offices in New York. It is not clear how the weekend's events will affect expansion plans.

The group also has a thriving commercial property arm arranging commercial mortgages and linking them where appropriate with an "all in corporate package of employee benefits. Any exposure to the commercial property market may have contributed to the decision to call in the administrators.

Mr Levitt has never been far from controversy. The financial services industry in which he worked is dominated by the commission system under which a salesman is only as good as his next deal. The best salesmen at Allied Dunbar, Abbey Life, the MI Group and other such groups clawed their way to the top using every means at their disposal. Many of them were subsequently lured to Levitt with the promise of yet more cash, giving Mr Levitt the pick of the best, but also alienating him from many in the financial services community. A dispute with Allied Dunbar ended with the termination of an agency agreement between the two groups this year. The complaint, never publicly acknowledged, was that Levitt was stealing its top commission earners.

Little was known yesterday about the reasons for the appointment of administrators, but one thing is clear. Mr Levitt has not got this far without learning a few tricks and has friends in all the right circles. Now, when the chips are down, he may discover who his friends really are.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lake bites City bait

RICHARD Lake, one of the best known charists in the City, and ranked number one in *Institutional Investor's* latest annual survey, is turning his back on the world of the self-employed to return to a City firm. Lake, aged 51, left Swiss Bank Corp — he was previously with Griverson Grant and was then a partner at Raphael Zorn — to launch his own business, World Stockmarket Analysis. But he has succumbed to an "out of the blue approach" from Hoare Govett and will be joining the firm as a director in mid-January. "My company has been quite successful but, with five different fortnightly circulars, I spend most of my time writing one publication after another and then administration takes time to do regular seminars in London and around the world." The new-style Hoare Govett is appealing, adds Lake, who will act as a "catalyst between the UK and European salesmen, analysts and UK market-makers". He says: "I hope to provide them with a product they do not have and will be responsible for all aspects of technical

ities." A committed Christian, Lake, married with two daughters, lists "family first, then Christian activities" as his recreations in *Who's Who in the City*. He regularly gives a percentage of his annual income to charity.

Offer for orphans

SCOTT Goff Layton's one-time senior partner, David Grenier, who resigned as a director of Smith New Court in 1988, is expanding the firm he founded a year ago into the field he knows best: traditional private client broking. With backing from 3i and Mee Hope Securities, Grenier, aged 59, launched Independent Investment Management as a fund management group specialising in charities. But today, in partnership with Stock Exchange member firm Shaw & Co, he is starting a new service, specialising in high net worth private client portfolios, of £100,000 or more. "Until now we have only been handling discretionary portfolios," says Grenier. "We are simply responding to client demand. So many firms have merged or shut down and their clients have been effectively orphaned. A lot of people with sizeable portfolios, of perhaps £250,000, £500,000 or more,

heard from their broker for months."

AT A department store in Yeovil, a little girl was sitting on the lap of the store's Santa, who asked her what she would like for Christmas. Indignantly she replied: "Didn't you get the fax I sent you?"

Slimmer brokers

HOARE Govett made five UK equity analysts redundant at the end of last week as part of its plan to cut 12 jobs by Christmas. Mark Wright, Selwyn Jones, Miles Sallied and two others were told to leave on Thursday. After a two-year spell at Unilever, Wright, aged 33, joined Capel Cure Myers as an investment analyst before working as a fund manager for Lazard Securities. He was appointed assistant director on the motors and engineering team at Hoare Govett in 1988. Sallied, aged 41, was a senior analyst at Prudential Bache before joining Hoare Govett in 1988 as an assistant director on the electronics desk. Jones was a property specialist. The firm, now completing its management buyout, had said some jobs would be lost by natural wastage and more through redundancies. But directors are privately angry that five

when County NatWest and James Capel laid off 45 staff between them.

Strauss farewell

RONALD Strauss, who with his brother Robert and Jim Turnbull, founded Strauss Turnbull, the stockbroker, in 1938, died last week. Strauss, aged 83, suffered a heart attack as he was getting dressed for work on Monday morning. He had out-lived his brother and his cousin Julius, who was also at the firm, and still worked five days a week. His son Derek, aged 50, is the joint deputy chairman of the firm, now owned by Société Générale, the French bank. "His stockbroking business was his life," says Paul Tisch, the executive director in charge of equities at SGST and who had worked for Strauss for 22 years. "He used to spend six months of the year travelling all over the world and a large part of the firm's business came from abroad. His network of contacts was extensive." A strong-willed opinionated man, he was not always popular, but his friends he made he kept for life. "You could learn a awful lot from him," adds Tisch. Strauss's funeral was held at Willesden Cemetery last week.

King of UK insurance salesmen

BRUCE King was hoping to make a million pounds this year from his work for the Levitt Group. At 44 years of age, he is the most highly paid insurance salesman in Britain. Next year, he was expecting to make a great deal more (Jon Ashworth writes).

Mr King, when I interviewed him earlier this year, claimed he was special. "I'm probably totally unique. The largest amount of insurance-related business in the UK is done by tied agents. I've been there. I've done it."

Unlike other salesmen, Mr King saw himself as a businessman who has moved into financial consultancy. "I've always been in business. I ran my own very successful engineering company, then a chain of drug stores, then dropped out for a few years and became involved in alternative medicine and psychology." Four years ago, he claims, he tested his strength of mind by walking on a 25ft bed of burning coals. "I walked along it slowly and it crystallised everything I had done before. There was no magic in it. If you walk calmly and purposefully through the fire, you will not burn."

His fire-walking was followed by a career in insurance, first with Abbey Life and then with Allied Dunbar. Both groups use commissions to inspire their salesmen. The more policies they sell, the more money they make.



Mastering the psychology of selling: King, UK's highest-paid insurance salesman

wanted to earn £1,000 a week. They said it couldn't be done. I did it. I told Allied Dunbar that my target in the first year was to become their top salesman. They said it had never been done. I said 'watch me'."

Mr King succeeded, and put it down to positive thinking. The psychology of selling is all-important. "I've had the experience of running a business and know emotionally what problems a businessman faces. Salesmen don't understand. I go out to form relationships and solve problems. I know that if I do a good job the money will roll in."

In the Sixties, Mr King took one of Britain's first business management training courses.

After five years, he sold out and started a chain of drugstores. By the early Eighties, he had changed direction again. "I became interested in alternative medicine and spent time at a mud-training centre near San Diego in California. I went backwards and forwards on planes a lot. Each time I used to come back and say 'person'."

As a businessman he mingled with fabulously wealthy clients, company directors, and others with money in need of financial advice. "I expose high-net-worth individuals and companies to problems they never knew they had. There are all

to do with it." The real money, for Levitt and its salesmen, is in employee benefits. They persuade companies to offer free financial advice to their directors as a perk. The idea has taken off in America. Mr King gets up at 4.45 am, spends time "in the greenhouse" then meditates for half an hour. He is at his desk in the West End by 6.30 am. "Business is about me," he says. "I'm not here to help other people. I'm here to help myself. I'm here to help my company. I'm here to help my clients. I'm here to help my shareholders. I'm here to help my friends. I'm here to help my family. I'm here to help my country. I'm here to help the world."

UNLISTED SECURITIES

BETTERWARE Consumer Products, the door-to-door household distribution company, will today appoint Walter Goldsmith the new non-executive chairman, as part of its bid for further European expansion.

Mr Goldsmith, aged 52, formerly chief executive of Black and Decker and president of that company's Pacific operations, has substantial international experience, having started B&D operations in 22 countries.

Unlike retailing, the direct-sales industry is buoyant. Betterware makes its profits by selling various household products direct to the customer.

Andrew Cohen, the chief executive, said the group has benefited from the economic squeeze.

The company has 4,250 distributors, and the number set to grow as more people need to earn additional income and become part-time distributors on a commission-only basis. The average sale stands at about £7.50, and is rising un-

Betterware plans to export its door-to-door catalogue retailing method to the Continent and is launching a sales operation in France.

Mr Goldsmith said the company has "great potential", with only 30 per cent of Britain covered, and "because of the price level, it's going to be relatively recession-proof".

He added: "It's a very exciting company, and one that stands out in these recessionary times. I think we're going to have an exciting ride."

The company recently reported interim pre-tax profits up by 52 per cent to £1.71 million, on turnover 36 per cent higher at £13.98 million. Second-half sales are 58 per cent ahead.

South New Court, the company's broker, has pushed its pre-tax profits of \$6.2 million in the first year, against \$2.2 million last time, giving earnings of 13p (9.2p).

PHILIP PANGALOS

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He added: "It's a very exciting company, and one that stands out in these recessionary times. I think we're going to have an exciting ride."

The company recently reported interim pre-tax profits up by 52 per cent to £1.71 million, on turnover 36 per cent higher at £13.98 million. Second-half sales rose 53 per cent on the year.

South Notts County, the company's broker, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £4 million for the full year, against £2.7 million last time, giving earnings of 13p (9.2p).

PHILIP PANGALOS

PHILIP PANGALOS[illegible]

Strasbourg

UK in breach on review of detention

TICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the offender admitted a crime and he had been sent to the reformatory for nine in Plymouth Woods, Cardiff and asked them if they would like to see a bird's nest. They went with him into a wooded area.

The offender then attacked and abducted the girl. The boy ran for help and alerted two adults nearby. The offender ran off.

A disturbing feature of the case was that, instead of running away, the offender went to help and approached some other children aged 10 to 11 and lured them away by the same trick.

Two girls, one after the other, struck him and were able to run away. The boys ran to fetch the help of adults, who arrived with police.

The offender was arrested the following day. He admitted suffering glue which had sexually abused him. The version of events corresponded with the allegations against him and he admitted that he intended to do the same to the second girl as he had done with the first.

The Attorney General submitted that the offence was

gravated by the fact that there were two victims and that a proper comparison could be drawn between buggery and rape as set out in the guidelines on rape in *R v Billam* (1986) 1 WLR 349).

Their Lordships did not intend to establish such a comparison save to say that, in so far as analogies could be drawn, the maximum sentence for rape and buggery of a woman was life imprisonment.

The reference was in an area where the courts had no authority and nothing precisely similar had been discovered.

There were several aspects which a sentencing judge, and their Lordships in such circumstances, had to take into account:

- 1 The overall gravity of the offence.
- 2 The necessity for punishment of the offender, something which was sometimes overlooked.
- 3 The necessity to protect the public from the activities of someone who was prepared to snuff solvent and then, having been caught, to plead insanity, committed such no offence.

4 The public concern at serious crimes on young children, and the fact that the sentences imposed were not commensurate with the gravity of the offences, was a factor which was taken into account by the court. It was not the case that the sentences were imposed because of the public concern at serious crimes on young children, but because of the gravity of the offences.

5 What was hoped might be the deterrent effect, the effect which would be achieved by the imposition of a severe sentence might have on other people minded to act in such a manner.

6 Their Lordships had to make themselves whether the sentences did fall within the range of sentences which a judge could properly consider for the offences. They thought that he had pitched the sentences far too low. The proper sentence for the burglary was six years and for the attempt one year consecutive.

7 It was possible to justify the sentences and impose slightly more for the burglary and slightly more for the attempt. The broad totality, however, was accurately reflected by seven years. The appeal was allowed, the sentences were quashed and proper sentences were imposed.

8 An order was made for payment out of central funds of the offender's costs on the reference.

Solicitors: CPS, Head-quarters, Brian Jones Clarke & Co., Cardiff.

Thyane, Wilson and Gmurek v United Kingdom
(Case No 23/1989/183/241-243)
Before R. Kyndt, President
and J. van der Linde,
Vijzingsleden; F. Golczuk,
L. Marcher, J. Pinheiro de Faria,
E.-E. Pettit, B. Walsh, Sir
Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald,
C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, A.
Spielmann, J. De Meyer, N.
F. Schuch, J. Kollmann, E.
Pekkanen, A. N. Loizos and J.
M. Morenilla Rodriguez
Registrar M.-A. Elsen
[Judgment October 25]
The absence of a judicial proce-
dure available to the applicants
to determine the continued
lawfulness of their detention
(and in the case of Mr Wilson
and Mr Gmurek, the lawfulness
of their re-detention following
their release) constituted a violation
of article 5.4, of the European
Convention on Human Rights.

In addition, the European Court
of Human Rights held, since the
violation did not give rise to an enforceable right to
compensation, there had also been
a breach of article 5.5, of

Following a recommendation of the parole board because of his conduct was giving cause for concern.

In June 1983 the local review committee recommended a further review in two years' time with the proviso that should the inmate be found to be such an extent that he was no longer considered to be a risk, the case should be reviewed at an earlier date. The next review date was October 1985.

The applicant, Mr. Edward Gunnell, convicted of *rape in the second degree* in 1963, of four offences of rape and two offences of attempted rape for which he was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1963. He was released on parole in 1968, but in 1982, but was recalled to prison within a year by the secretary of state following two incidents in January and February 1983.

The case was then reviewed by the Parole Board which recommended his release a month later subject to adequate arrangements being made for his housing and psychiatric supervision.

The secretary of state, after

1 Alleged breach of article 5-A. Whether the requisite judicial control was incorporated in the original conviction

The applicants claimed that discretionary life sentence was composed of a punitive element, that is, a period of imprisonment to satisfy the needs of retribution and deterrence (see, for example, *Griffin v. United Kingdom*, and *Griffin v. United Kingdom*), and a security element based on the need to protect the public.

They maintained that they had received discretionary life sentences because, as in the *Weeks* case (Judgment of March 2, 1977, (1977) 14 ECHR 1), the courts considered them to be mentally unstable and dangerous and that such a sentence would enable the secretary of state to monitor their progress and release them if it was safe to release them.

Since those factors were susceptible to change with the passage of time a right to judicial review at reasonable intervals of their detention and of their criminality

tying their detention were comparable to those at issue in the *Van Droogenbroeck* (judgment of June 23, 1982, Series I, No 50) and *Weela* cases.

The factors of mental instability and dangerousness were susceptible to change over the passage of time and new issues of lawfulness could arise.

Consequently, the applicants were entitled to request the courts to have the lawfulness of the continued detention decided by a court at reasonable intervals and to have the lawfulness of any re-detention determined by a court.

The court did not consider necessary to decide whether article 5.4 should apply through out the applicants' imprisonment or only following the expiry of the tariff period as it was clear that the punitive period had expired in the case of each of the applicants.

B Whether the available remedies satisfied the requirements of article 5.4

The "court" referred to in article 5.4 did not have to be a court in the strict sense of the word. It was sufficient that the court was an independent and impartial body.

Article 5 provides: "4 Every-

tered that the period was excessive and that the appropriate period was nine months.

Turning to the submission that the committal order was unlawful in that it committed Mr Lawson to prison rather than to a young offenders' institution, his Lordship set out the relevant sections of the 1982 Act and said that the court had not, it seemed, formed the view that Mr Lawson was over 21, rather the relevant statutory provisions had been overlooked.

The fact remained that the order should not have been made. Inasmuch the committal order should have provided for Mr Lawson to "be detained under section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982".

The question therefore arose whether the court of Appeal had power to substitute an order correcting the error, and if so, whether it should exercise that power.

In the event the effect on Mr

Deterrence was

Regins v Masegh

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Jowitt

[Judgment November 29]

A first offender convicted of a relatively minor offence of pickpocketing in Oxford Street, London was not a suitable subject for the imposition of a deterrent sentence.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by George Masegh against two concurrent sentences of 18 months imprisonment and a recommendation for deportation imposed for offences of theft and attempted theft by Mr Recorder Collins at Middlesbrough Crown Court.

Lawton had been very ill. He had been held in Durham prison for five days. It was not known whether he was held in a special allocation section in which he would have been held if the court had had been told, or whether he was treated as a man sentenced to imprisonment. At the end of that period he was transferred to a young offenders' institution where he had since remained.

His Lordship referred to *Linnett v Cotes* (1987) (Q.B. 555) in which the Court of Appeal had held that under section 13 of the Criminal Justice Act 1968 the court had jurisdiction in the exercise of its discretion to reverse or vary the decision below in the exercise of its jurisdiction to punish for contempt of court, to make such other order as might be just.

In the court's judgment that power should be exercised in the present case. Section 14(1) of the

Term for public order offences inappropriate

Mr Timothy R. Spencer, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that on the face of it the sentence was too long. Between three and six months would have been the normal sentence for such a case save for the court's view that a deterrent sentence was needed because of pickpocketing in Oxford Street was so prevalent.

That raised problems. First, what was a prevalent offence? All too many offences were prevalent such as burglary and shoplifting. If shoplifting were as prevalent in Oxford Street as pickpocketing, would the court too require a deterrent sentence?

How was one to judge where

Consent of the Court Act 1981 preserved the ancient power of the court to order the release of a contemnor earlier than at the end of the fixed term of detention required by that section. It was a power appropriately used where a contemnor sought to purge his contempt and the court was convinced of his sincerity.

There was some evidence in the present case leading to the conclusion that Mr Lawton had learned his lesson and that little was to be gained by his determined refusal to abide by the order for the judge as varied by the Court of Appeal.

In all the circumstances the court considered it appropriate in addition to reducing the term of the order to nine months to order his early release on December 7, 1990.

Solicitors: Aaronson & Co, Earls Court for Martin Halliday & Co, Gateshead; Sidney Scields, Sunderland.

Pickpocket rate

itionally there were outbreaks, as on the Underground, after which deterrent sentences were imposed. However, such cases had involved organised groups many of whose members had had a string of previous convictions.

The instant case was at the opposite end of the spectrum. It involved isolated, one-off pickpockets operating alone. The fact that a deterrent sentence could be justified in the worst cases did not mean that offences of pickpocketing in general required a deterrent sentence. If that became the practice, deterrent sentences would lose their meaning and become the tariff.

Finally, no one really knew

liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release is not lawful.

"Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this article shall have an enforceable right to compensation."

Each of the applicants was convicted of serious sexual offences and sentenced to a different term of imprisonment. In so doing, the English courts recognised the need to punish each applicant for the gravity of his offences but also had regard to their mental instability, the likelihood of their committing further offences, making them a danger to the public.

The first applicant, Mr Michael, pleaded guilty to rape and burglary for which he was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court, London, in 1975. He had been in custody since then although he had twice absconded from prison.

Despite the local review committee's recommendation that he be released in May 1983, the Parole Board had since recommended that he remain in custody with a further review one year after his transfer to an open prison.

It had been accepted that he had served the punitive stage of his sentence and that the public was the sole remaining consideration in his case.

The second applicant, Mr Benjamin Wilson, pleaded guilty to one count of burglary, two counts of attempted burglary and seven counts of indecent assault on boys under 16 for which he was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1972.

He was released on conditional licence in 1982, but was

In November 1983, the Court of Appeal dismissed his applications for judicial review of the decisions of the Parole Board and the Home Office in the discovery of the documents relating to their determination of his case.

In September 1988 he was once again released on license. However, on September 24, 1990 he pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court to one charge of attempted rape, five charges of possession and three charges of robbery. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, the life licence for his original offences having already been revoked.

Mr. Thynne, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gannell lodged their applications with the European Commission of Human Rights on June 3, 1985, September 1, 1985 and April 24, 1985 respectively. On September 6, 1988 the Commission accepted the joinder of the three applications and declared them admissible.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on September 11, 1989 establishing the facts of the case and expressing the opinion, by 10 votes to 2, that there had been a breach of article 5.4 in that the three applicants were not able to have the lawfulness of their detention determined by a court at reasonable intervals from their imprisonment, and also in the case of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gannell at the moment of their re-detention; and by 10 votes to 2, that there had been a breach of article 5.5 in the case of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gannell. The Commission did not give rise to an enforceable claim for compensation before the domestic courts.

The Commission referred the case to the Court on October 12, 1989.

case where the facts could not be described as grave and the sole element was that of security. The present applicants had committed particularly serious offences, and the sentencing courts had emphasized the punitive element.

The Government contended that in a normal discretionary life sentence, dividing the tariff period into two periods to the tariff period by reference to the punitive and security elements.

To attempt to do so confused the sentencing procedures governing the way the sentence was served with the nature of the sentence. Gravity remained the immutable justification in a discretionary sentence.

In the Court of Appeal, each of the applicants was sentenced to life imprisonment because, in addition to the need for punishment, they were considered to be suffering from a mental or personality disorder and were dangerous and in need of treatment.

Life imprisonment was adopted as the most appropriate sentence in the circumstances since it enabled the Secretary of State to assess their progress and to act accordingly. Thus the courts' sentencing objectives were in that respect similar to those in *Weeks*, but also took into account the much greater gravity of the offences committed.

The Court noted that the discretionary life sentence had clearly developed in English law as a measure to deal with mentally ill and dangerous offenders, such sentences were composed of both a punitive and a security element, the latter being designed to confer on the Secretary of State the responsibility for determining when the prisoner's interest permitted the prisoner's release.

Those objectives were distinct from the punitive purposes of the mandatory life sentence. The tariff had expired in the

The Court saw no reason to depart from its finding in the *Wicks* judgment that neither the Parole Board nor judicial review proceedings – no other remedy of a judicial character being available to the three applicants – satisfied the requirements of article 5.4. In fact, that was not disputed by the Government.

The Court thus concluded, by 18 votes to 1 (Judge Thor Vilhjalmsson dissenting) that there had been a breach of article 5.4 in the case of each applicant.

II Alleged breach of article 5.5

As the breach of article 5.4 could not give rise to an enforceable claim for compensation, the domestic courts of the Court held, by 18 votes to 1 (Judge Thor Vilhjalmsson dissenting) that there had been a violation of article 5.5 in the case of Mr Wilson.

III Application of article 50

The Court dismissed unanimously the claims by the applicants for compensation in respect of, *inter alia*, the feelings of helplessness and frustration they had suffered, considering that its finding of a violation of article 5 constituted sufficient justification.

On the other hand, it unanimously awarded Mr Thynne the amount claimed in respect of costs and expenses, namely £4,500 less £1,000 already paid by way of legal aid in respect of fees.

Mr Wilson and Mr Gunnell were awarded jointly £18,000 less £124,849.98 already paid by Mr Gunnell by way of legal aid in respect of fees and travel and assistance expenses, and £10,000 in respect of interest.

... sentenced at the Central Criminal Court, London, in 1875. He had been in custody since then although he had twice escaped from prison.

Despite the local review of the Commission ordered the joinder of the three applications and declared them admissible.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a statement to state to assess their progress and to act accordingly.

Life imprisonment was judged to be the most appropriate sentence in the circumstances since it enabled the secretary of state to assess their progress and to act accordingly.

(Judge Thor Vilhjalmsson dissenting) that there had been violation of article 5.5 in the case of Mr Wilson.

III Application of article 50

Mr Edward Cross, who did not appear below, for Mr Lawson, Miss Ashley McKenzie for Miss Mason.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the breaches of the Criminal Law Act 1977, which Mr Lawson had been found guilty were very serious and amounted to open defiance of the court. A substantial custodial sentence was therefore fully justified, and indeed required. The court's authority required to be upheld.

Nevertheless it had to be remembered that under section 14(1) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 the maximum period of imprisonment for contempt was three months.

Serious though the present

Regina v Masagh
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Jowitt
[Judgment November 29]
A first offender convicted of a relatively minor offence of pickpocketing in Oxford Street, London was not a suitable subject for the imposition of a deterrent sentence.
The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by George Masagh against two concurrent sentences of 18 months imprisonment and a recommendation for deportation imposed for offences of theft and attempted theft by Mr Recorder Collins at Middlesbrough Guildhall Crown Court.

Mr Timothy R. Spencer, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that on the face of it the sentence was too long. Between three and six months would have been the normal sentence for such a case save for the recorder's view that a deterrent sentence was needed because pickpocketing in Oxford Street was prevalent.

That raised problems. First, what was a prevalent offence? All too many offences were prevalent such as burglary and shoplifting. If shoplifting were as prevalent in Oxford Street did that too require a deterrent sentence?

Now we come to judge where

sionally there were outbreaks, as on the Underground, after which deterrent sentences were imposed. However, such cases had involved organised groups, many of whose members had had a string of previous convictions.

The instant case was at the opposite end of the spectrum. It involved isolated, one-off events by a man operating alone. The fact that a deterrent sentence could be justified in these worst cases did not mean that offences of pickpocketing in general required a deterrent sentence. If that became the practice, deterrent sentences would lose their meaning and become the tariff.

Finally, no one really knew

It had been accepted that he had served the punitive stage of his punishment and that reintegration into the public was the sole remaining consideration in his case.

The second applicant, Mr Benjamin Wilson, pleaded guilty to one count of larceny, two counts of attempted burglary and seven counts of indecent assault on boys under 16 for which he was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1972.

He was released on conditional licence in 1982, but was

a report on September 7, 1989 establishing the facts of the case and expressing the opinion, by 10 votes to 2, that there had been a breach of article 5.4 in that the three applicants were not able to have the lawfulness of their detention determined by a court at reasonable intervals throughout their imprisonment, and also in the case of Mr Wilson and Mr Gunnell at the moment of their re-detention; and by 10 votes to 2, that there had been a breach of article 5.5 in the case of Mr Wilson in that the breach of article 5.4 did not give rise to an enforceable claim for compensation before the domestic courts.

The Commission referred the case to the Court on October 12, 1989.

Thus the courts' sentencing objectives were in that respect similar to those in *Weeks*, but also took into account the much greater gravity of the offences committed.

The Court noted that the discretionary life sentence had clearly developed in English law mainly as a device to deal with mentally unstable and dangerous offenders; such sentences were composed of both a punitive and a security element, the latter being designed to confer on the secretary of state the responsibility for determining when the public interest permitted the prisoner's release.

Those objectives were distinct from the punitive purposes of the mandatory life sentence. The tariff had expired in the

The Court dismissed unanimously the claims by the applicants for compensation in respect of, *inter alia*, the feelings of helplessness and frustration they had suffered, considering that its finding of a violation of article 5 constituted sufficient just satisfaction.

On the other hand, it unanimously awarded Mr Thyne the amount claimed in respect of costs and expenses, namely 4,500 less Ffr 7,845 already paid by way of legal aid in respect of fees.

Mr Wilson and Mr Gunnell were awarded jointly £18,000 less Ffr 24,849.98 already paid to Mr Gunnell by way of legal aid in respect of fees and travel and subsistence expenses. Both those figures are in Swiss francs.

Greeks adopt Thatcherite policies for Olympian task

One of the most immediate difficulties that faced Greece's liberal conservative government at the time of its formation last April was to persuade the outside world — in particular, potential investors in Europe, the United States and Japan — that an administration backed by only 151 votes in a 300-seat parliament had a future.

The fragility of the government, however, was always more apparent than real. Now, eight months later, and with 152 seats, it no longer seems vulnerable. The October municipal elections left the ruling New Democracy party counting losses as well as gains, but the same went for the socialist and communist opposition. New Democracy held on to two of the three main cities, Athens and Thessaloniki, losing only Piraeus.

The party interpreted this as a vote of tolerance for the first stage of its reform programme, and pushed an electoral law through parliament, restoring a system of reinforced proportional representation (PR).

This replaced simple PR, which had led to two inconclusive general elections, in June and November 1989, in both cases depriving New Democracy of a majority.

Under the restored system of reinforced PR, the 47 per cent of the vote won by New Democracy last April, which then gave the party 151 seats, would now provide an overall

The new government is rebuilding its relations abroad and imposing austerity at home to revive the flagging economy, Chris Eliou reports

majority of between 15 and 20 seats. There is little incentive, therefore, for the opposition parties to try too hard to topple the government, even if either of them was without problems of its own, and they were able to propose a convincing alternative to the two years of austerity that the government considers to be the minimum needed for recovery.

To socialist cries of foul play, the government observes that simple PR had been introduced by Andreas Papandreu, the then prime minister, on the eve of the June 1989 elections, in a despairing attempt to ensure that if he could not win, nobody else would.

The government's position is strengthened by disarray in the socialist and communist parties. The socialist party, Pasok, faces the prospect that Mr Papandreu and several close associates will stand trial next year on charges arising out of a £100 million bank embezzlement and other alleged scandals during the party's eight years in power.

Mr Papandreu, aged 71, has been ailing since he underwent heart bypass surgery in London two years ago. The conflicting socialist and social

democrat tendencies in Pasok may split the party when a new leader has to be chosen. The communist-led Leftist Alliance is still in search of a new identity.

When the government came to power it had to give first priority to staving off immediate disasters, such as a failure to meet monthly public-sector salary and pension bills. Despite a series of "fire brigade" measures to curb expenditures and increase revenues it is not yet totally out of this particular wood.

More generally, the government had to restore Greece's credibility as a member of the European Community, and to restore good relations with Washington. After a tour of every EC capital, Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, obtained a pledge of economic support from the EC's June summit in Dublin. He also became the first Greek premier in 25 years to visit the White House.

The hope is that through these improved relationships Greece will recover its attractiveness to potential investors in the West and Far East.

The government has been faced with unwanted complications as a result of the confrontation in the Gulf. Higher oil costs have affected the balance of payments and the rate of inflation, and the dispute has enhanced the relative importance of Turkey as a frontline state.

Athens cannot be indifferent to a military strengthening of Turkey when the Cyprus issue and disputes over the Aegean are still unresolved, but it would be equally reluctant to weaken its links with Washington, in view of the hopes pinned on American investment. As it is, government commitment to the embargo against Iraq and its participation in the naval force applying the blockade have opened it to strong criticism from opposition parties.

To consolidate further its domestic position, the government has to advance from containment of the economic crisis to promotion of Thatcher-style economic and social reforms. These will include denationalisation and privatisation, restoration of market freedoms and deregulation in the banking and financial sectors, and a sharp compression of the size, as well as the role, of the public sector.

Equally in need of attention if Greece is to achieve its full potential as an EC member are the health service, education system, public transport and telecommunications, in other words, the whole infrastructure.



Cheering victory: Constantine Mitsotakis has brought conservatives back to power

The tall man aims for the pinnacle

CONSTANTINE Mitsotakis, Greece's prime minister since April, shares some similarities with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor: his height, his dogged determination, and the time it took him to reach the pinnacle. At 6ft 4in he is a *gigolos*, the tall one, to his supporters. To the opposition socialist party led by Andreas Papandreu, the former prime minister, he is less flatteringly known as *o qialis*, the nightmare.

Mr Mitsotakis was born in 1918 to a Cretan political family, and was only 28 when first elected to parliament in 1946, propelled by a remarkable resistance record during the wartime German occupation of Crete. He became a cabinet member five years later.

Things went wrong, however, in the crisis summer of 1965 when Andreas Papandreu, then a minister in the centrist government of his father, George Papandreu, found himself accused of involvement in an alleged secret organisation of leftist officers plotting against the monarchy.

George Papandreu's response was to seek to appoint himself national defence minister. King Constantine balked, the government fell, and the country was plunged into a constitutional crisis. Mr Mitsotakis was the most prominent of a group of ministers, collectively to become known as the "apostates", who threw their support behind a succession of governments headed by palace nominees, a process ended by the military coup of April 1967. Andreas Papandreu and Mr Mitsotakis embarked on a feud that has been one of the constants of Greek politics for the past 25 years.

Mr Mitsotakis is defiant about his role in the 1965 crisis. To him it was not an issue of "the king reigns, the prime minister governs", as George Papandreu asserted, but of elementary public rectitude. His stand, which Andreas Papandreu has consistently refused to debate with him on television, cost him the best part of 15 years in the political wilderness.

In common with most Greek politicians, Mr Mitsotakis was arrested after the 1967 coup. When he was released and confined to his home, he escaped to Turkey in a small boat and made his way to Paris, where he joined Constantine Karamanlis, Greece's elder statesman and the current president. He returned to Greece under a general amnesty in 1973.

Mr Mitsotakis waited until 1978 to join Mr Karamanlis's New Democracy party, which he served as economic co-ordinator and foreign minister

before he lost office in 1981. Three years later, Mr Mitsotakis won the New Democracy leadership. On the day the party deputies voted, Mr Papandreu told the country's press: "New Democracy has elected a nightmare as its leader."

Ailing, burdened with scandals and fresh from a much-publicised divorce, Mr Papandreu lost power in June 1989. But the elections then, and in November 1989, were inconclusive, and it was only at the third attempt, last April, that Mr Mitsotakis scraped together a majority.

Mr Mitsotakis and his wife, Marika, have three married daughters and an unmarried son, who graduated from Harvard this year. One of his daughters, Dora Bakoyanni, the widow of a New Democracy deputy murdered by terrorists, is a member of parliament and acts as her father's chief of staff with a seat in the cabinet as under-secretary to the prime minister.

Although he still considers Crete his "real home", Mr Mitsotakis now lives in Glyfada, the seaside suburb close to Athens airport. For relaxation, he plays backgammon and "above average chess". He is also an experienced mountaineer and, according to Mrs Bakoyanni, he intends to make a long planned assault "soon" on the summit of Mount Olympus, his last ambition among Greek peaks.

Though he is rarely perturbed, close associates have learnt to watch for the tell-tale twitch of the right shoulder that tells them an explosion is coming. What makes him angry? "Stupidity," says Mrs Bakoyanni, "yes-men and, above all, people who think they can try blackmail — that's the Cretan in him."

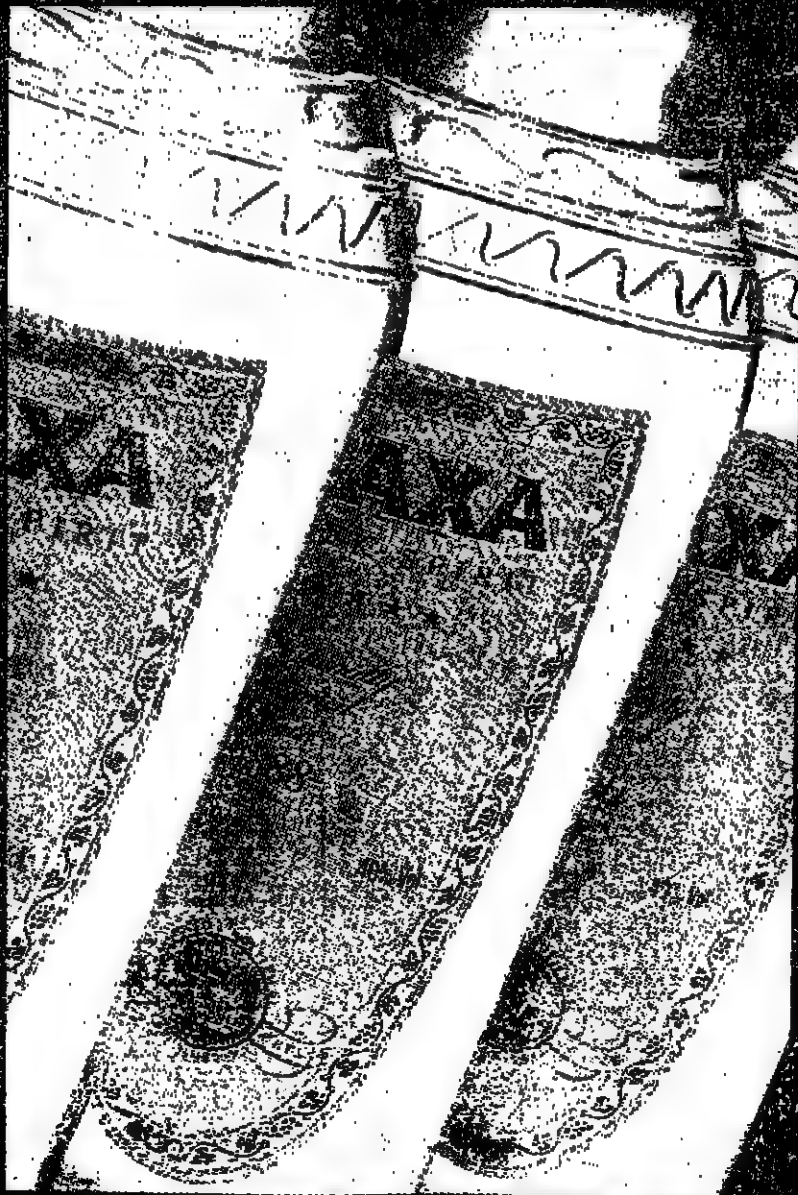
It has become almost traditional to describe Mr Mitsotakis as "uncharismatic", and certainly the balcony is not his natural habitat. A Mitsotakis speech in parliament is an unremitting hammering of nails on their heads, unadorned with flights of rhetoric. Repartee is not his strong point, and he is a man about whom there are almost no anecdotes. His humour is said to be reserved for his friends. In contrast to Andreas Papandreu — and it would be difficult to find two characters more opposite — Mr Mitsotakis is a born committee man.

Mrs Bakoyanni describes him as a man "pragmatic in day-to-day affairs", but one who has "a very clear vision of what he wants to do — synchronise the steps of Greece with the rest of Europe, and that's not only economics".

CHRIS ELIOU



Hawk with a dove: Constantine Mitsotakis lets fly



METAXA

THE GREEK SPIRIT

The transition from the bipolar international order of the Cold War to one whose characteristics are still unknown has found Greece within the fold of the European Community, a fact that can be considered a blessing in these times of widespread uncertainty. Greece's Balkan neighbours look upon this privilege with envy.

But membership of the Community alone cannot exorcise economic problems caused by a prolonged period of failing productivity and overconsumption. It is the task of the New Democracy government that won the general election last April to reduce the huge internal and external deficits while improving the country's image as a dependable member of the West.

Greece's priorities, economic improvement and relations with the West, are naturally linked to its main preoccupations in foreign policy. These are the evolving

The nation restores international role

Membership of the European Community gives the country security much envied by its Balkan neighbours, Thanos Veremis reports

depth and shape of the EC, since that will determine Greece's economic future, and the forms of collective security that will respond to the country's most important concerns.

Along with other southern EC members, Greece favours an acceleration of the Community's political unity through a "deepening" of its institutions. As far as security is concerned, the Greeks view the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) as a valuable forum for problem-solving in areas such as arms control and the monitoring of human rights, but as an unwieldy instrument of collective defence.

The absorption of the Western European Union by the EC,

making it the Community's security component, might have the added effect of strengthening the credibility of European unity, and Athens considers it to be a leading option. Until Europe acquires a stronger framework, however, the Greeks believe that NATO will continue to be an operational institution, and that it could be given greater scope to provide security to members exposed to the instability that has followed the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

The collapse of the Eastern bloc, and of an ideology that was hostile

to nationalism, has revived pre-war ethnic, religious and political conflicts in Greece's volatile neighbourhood — the Balkans. The prospect of Yugoslav disintegration (or the formation of a loose confederation) might exacerbate relations with Greece. Pressure on Belgrade from Skopje, the Macedonian capital, has already led to the blocking of the transit of Greek perishable goods.

Serbia, on the other hand, has traditionally been an ally of Greece, and might become one again if the other Yugoslav republics decide to bolt the union.

Towards Albania, Greece is now using the carrot of economic and commercial exchanges to improve relations with this reclusive neighbour, coupled with admonitions about the freedoms of the estimated 400,000 ethnic Greeks living there.

Bulgaria's pangs of rebirth in the post-Zhivkov era have included the loss of that country's financial umbilical cord with the Soviet Union. Greece has displayed a lively interest in alleviating Bulgaria's plight by extending moderate support, and has offered a way out of its isolation by

considering co-operation in the defence field.

Since Greece is the only member of both NATO and the EC in the Balkans, she could become an important link between the crumbling southeast European region and the West. Athens would not rule out the setting-up of a conference for security and co-operation in the Balkans, patterned on the CSCE, which could provide regional stability.

Greece's main problems with Turkey stem from its belief that Ankara has aspirations to enhance its role as a regional power.

Strangely enough, Greece has a stake in Turkey's westernisation because the process would tend to improve Turkish democratic institutions and minimise what is

seen as the Asiatic element in the conduct of its foreign policy.

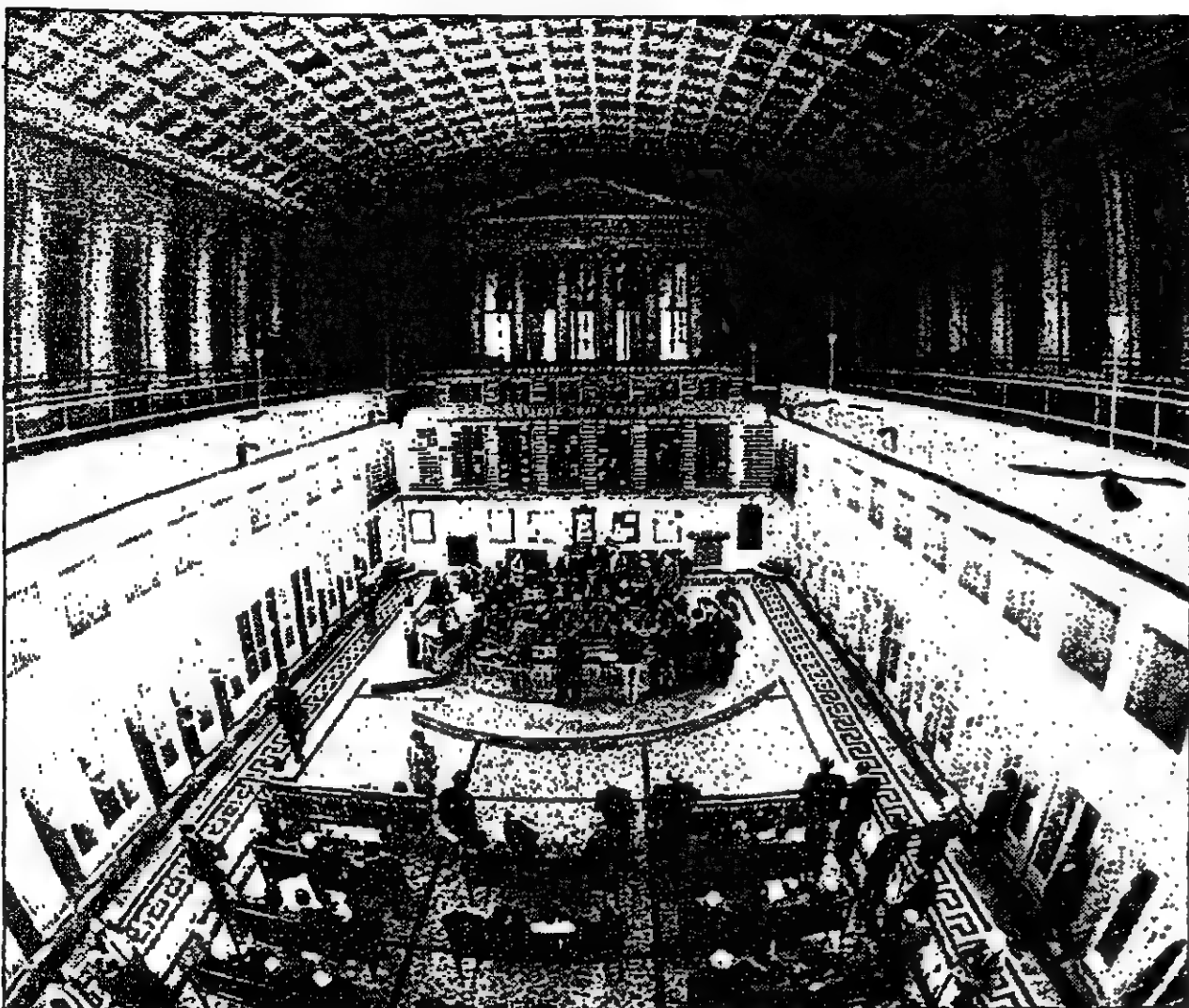
Although Turkey's entry into the EC has been postponed, Greece might still become a supporter of the Turkish application in the future if it became apparent that attempts to resolve the issues between the two states had been started.

Cyprus is regarded as the necessary catalyst for any prospect of such an improvement. As seen from Athens, it is Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, who is reluctant to come to a credible agreement with George Vassiliou, his opposite number on the Greek Cypriot side.

Greece's relations with the United States have been enhanced by the conclusion of the defence co-operation agreement last July, providing for the maintenance of American bases in Greece.

● The author is director of the Hellenic Foundation for Defence and Foreign Policy.

Paying the price for turning the corner



Booyant: the Athens stock exchange has enjoyed three prosperous years in a bull market, despite economic chaos

With the tabling last month of an austerity budget for 1991, Greece's New Democracy government has not simply hoisted the flag of budgetary discipline, but nailed it to the mast. The Greeks now know that if this year was difficult, as the government sought to arrest the descent into bankruptcy, the next two years will be still more painful.

Sustained austerity, involving salary and pension increases well below inflation and the likelihood of a temporary rise in unemployment, was the European Community's price for offering new assistance, and EC experts travelled to Athens to help draw up the budget.

The tough measures were the response to eight years of alleged profligacy under the previous socialist government.

From the moment of taking office last April, Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, turned "bankruptcy at the gates" into his personal catchphrase. He cited a public debt equal to 105 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), a public sector deficit at about 20 per cent of GDP, inflation accelerating steadily towards what the government now insists will be a new year peak of 23 per cent, a 1990 current account deficit almost certain to exceed £1.5 billion, and a foreign debt that has grown in ten years from £3.6 billion to nearly £9 billion, despite income of £5 billion from the EC.

The targets set for next year are modest. Inflation is to be reduced to 17 per cent, the budget deficit to 16.6 per cent of GDP. For the end of 1993 — which will also be four months before the last possible date for a new election — inflation and interest rates should be in single figures and the public sector borrowing requirement about 3 per cent of GDP.

By then, Ioannis Paleokrassas, the

Greece faces a year of rising unemployment and low pay rises, Victor Walker writes

finance minister, says, the main deterrent to significant investment will have been eliminated and Greece will have "ensured its place on the European train" of the EC's single market.

Budgetary discipline in 1991 will include expansion of the tax base to include the wealthier representatives of the so far immune farming sector, introduction of a capital gains tax and a 10 per cent withholding tax on interest from bank deposits, plus a computerised assault on tax evasion and fraud, concentrating on VAT and the incomes of self-employed professionals.

A start will be made on denationalising industries taken over during the socialist period, as well as the part-privatisation of state corporations and public utilities.

The budget vote, due before the Christmas recess, should enable Greece to apply for an EC loan worth between 2 billion and 2.5 billion ECUs (£1.4 billion-£1.7 billion).

Although the need for sacrifice provides the government with sound reasons for its negative tone, there are positive factors.

Inflation has been accelerating largely because of stop-gap measures to control public sector deficits — increases in VAT scales and public utility charges — and should respond quickly to the squeeze imposed by the new budget.

Greece is still without serious unemployment, because of the shock

absorbers of agriculture, tourism, self-employment and employment in small family firms, and the black economy.

Industry has enjoyed three years of satisfactory profit and for the most part seems confident in face of the challenge of the European single market, while neither economic distress nor the Gulf dispute has yet had any effect on the buoyancy of the Athens stock exchange.

The phasing-out of subsidies is encouraging the farming sector to switch to products that could eventually turn Greece into the market garden of the Community.

Deregulation of the banking system and financial services is gaining momentum, in part because of the loss of union influence since the defeat of the socialists, while the only real threat to the boom in tourism is the effect that a Gulf war, or prolonged tension, could have on movement to the Mediterranean as a whole.

Much will depend on how quickly and how successfully the government can huff off the loss-making nationalised industries and push through its privatisation programme. First indications are that intentions have come into conflict with realities. Disposal of a pilot batch of companies selected as easy sales because of their nature, financial potential and the interest expressed in them, has become bogged down in legal disputes.

International financial consultants active in this field, such as Eurofin, suspect that procedures will take far longer than had been expected.

On the other hand, the government is in the process of drawing the teeth of the unions to remove its most formidable obstacle. Legislation tabled in parliament in November will make strikes more difficult to call.

Shipowners beware of a government bearing gifts

The merchant fleet is slow to come home, despite changes to labour law and reduced taxes, Claire Lyon writes

Governments form and governments fall, but the shipping industry goes on for ever, and nowhere is this more true than in Greece. The Greek shipping industry is spread far and wide, Greek owners are based in Piraeus and New York, London and Monaco, and its tonnage is under flags as far-flung as those of Panama and Vanuatu, Liberia and Cyprus.

As far as the Greek government, of whatever political persuasion, is concerned, however, Greek shipping is Greek-owned tonnage under the blue and white national colours and, preferably, managed out of Piraeus. Today that national-flag fleet stands at about half the strength it had in 1981, when it reached a peak of almost 4,000 vessels totalling more than 42 million tons.

Figures are less readily available for Greek-owned tonnage worldwide, but it is estimated that it tops the league tables. Greek governments have long wished to attract the Greek-owned, foreign-flagged tonnage back to the home register, and this year a new campaign has been begun.

Shipowners have always claimed that they ask for little help from the state, and those who have moved their ships and their offices elsewhere continue to think of themselves as Greek, despite the fact that economic and practical considerations have taken precedence. The present government has recognised these facts and acted, not with appeals to the patriotic sentiments of owners, but with measures aimed principally at their pockets.

The first intimations came from Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, who, for six months, took over the shipping portfolio when the government came to power in April. This shows the government's genuine interest in the industry, he says, and its respect for its importance both as a currency earning sector and one requiring minimal input from the state.

The day-to-day running of the Merchant Marine ministry in Piraeus fell to Aristotle Pavlides, who was appointed alternate minister in May and took over full control of the portfolio in October.

Within its first six months the new administration announced a series of incentives for shipowners designed to boost the competitiveness of

Greek-flag vessels in the international market. Tonnage tax on vessels of 80,000 tons and more was slashed by 75 per cent, and tax for vessels of 40,000 to 80,000 tons by 50 per cent.

In October, manning reductions of up to five crew members were announced, although Mr Pavlides pointed out that this was largely a paper reduction, covered with manning levels set under a 1986 law. A large number of vessels had already been using reduced complements through a system of individual applications to the ministry for an "experimental" crew complement.

Even so, the measures brought swift reaction. The Panhellenic Seamen's Federation threatened escalating industrial action if the manning cuts were not withdrawn, claiming they would result in

widespread unemployment of seafarers, the further weakening of the already bankrupt Seamen's Pension Fund and the de-Hellenisation of Greek shipping.

One large shipowner, who estimated that his own fleet benefited most from the tax cuts, called them misguided, claiming as they did at a time when Greek people were being called upon to bear heavy burdens to rescue the economy.

There were also other incentives to shipowners, including an immediate start on the upgrading of telecommunications in Piraeus. By mid 1991, 10,000 extra lines will be available for telephone, telex and fax connections in the Piraeus area, which has taken precedence in the countrywide effort to bring the Greek system to an acceptable level.

The red tape that entwines procedures for supplying ships has been partly dismantled. Changes in the system of educating merchant marine officers, which started in 1989 with the introduction of sandwich courses, giving on-board as well as theoretical training, have continued. The traditional officer cadet uniforms, done away with under the socialist government, have been reinstated.

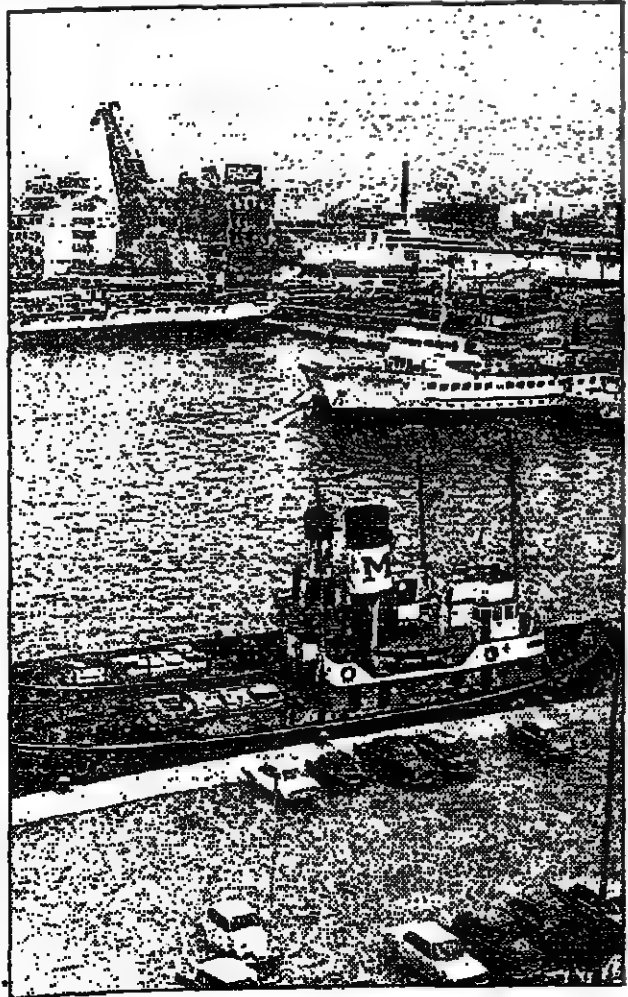
Almost two months after the announcement of the taxation cuts, Mr Pavlides admitted that, up to that point, the measures had not yet brought the desired results, but blame cannot fairly be attached to the measures themselves. Market conditions, the Gulf dispute and domestic problems such as a three-week-long strike, which crippled communications, blocked out the capital city for up to six hours a day and put a severe crimp in the banking system, have acted as disincentives to owners to experiment.

One of the most encouraging signs in Piraeus has been the growing caution and responsibility of owners. As ship prices started to drop, the market held back on purchases, despite a reportedly significant reserve of liquid assets waiting to be invested in shipping. In contrast to the past, Greek owners are not rushing to the second-hand market. They will wait for prices to come down to a level that will not leave them as exposed as they were in the Eighties.

Diversification out of shipping into fields as widely varying as property, tourism, agro-alimentary products and the media, has spread risk and opened up new prospects, but, as one Piraeus shipbroker says: "In the end, owning ships is an obsession with the Greeks."

The year closes with unanswered questions, both for the owners themselves and for the government, which is trying to bring them flocking back to Piraeus as they did in the Sixties. Unquestionably, if paradoxically, there is a strong element of patriotism among Greeks worldwide, but it is unlikely to spur owners to come home.

Until the results of the government's policies crystallise, Piraeus will not take on the aspect of an international shipping, banking and investment centre, which is the declared goal.



Piraeus: aiming to be an international trading centre

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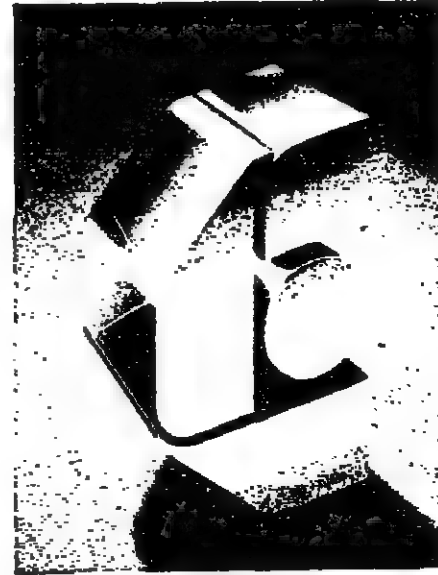
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Old wine in new technology

The wine varieties of Greece date back thousands of years to Dionysus, the ancient god of wine. Dark-stained feet once trod grapes in unkempt basements, but in today's booming Greek wineries, by contrast, there are rows of stainless steel temperature-controlled vats, and the new gods are those of quality and the market-place.

The Greek wine-makers, whose products in the past five years have begun to compare with many of the good French reds and whites, are in the vanguard of the modernising agricultural sector. Wine accounts for only 3.8 per cent of agricultural income but the modern technology, marketing, management, financing methods and attitudes of wine scions are setting the pace for the rest of the sector.

Three decades ago, Greece had an economy dominated by agriculture. Now, as in most developing economies, services are in the lead, industry is second and agriculture a distant third. Agriculture contributes 17 per cent of the gross national product.

However, agricultural goods, mainly fruit, vegetables and tobacco, earn at least a third of Greek export income. Wine accounts for almost 4 per cent of agricultural exports and about 1 per cent of all Greek exports.

The agriculture ministry has a five-year campaign that began about two years ago, to move farmers and the conservative agricultural co-operatives away from dependence on the vast surpluses that earn easy European

The making of wine in Greece, which goes back thousands of years, has adapted to modern methods. Carol Reed looks at the progress of an industry that promises to boost exports

Community subsidies and towards cultivating new crops with export demand, longer growing seasons and higher prices.

The ministry's agronomists are beginning to win farmers over to high-demand crops such as kiwi and asparagus, which bring profits of 150 to 200 per cent, instead of peaches, of which 700,000 tons were dumped every year, representing as much as 70 per cent of production.

This autumn, for instance, around Katerini and Lamia, in northern Greece, field after field was sprouting asparagus leaves. On the Peloponnese coast across from the Aegean island of Poros, and on the big island of Crete, farmers have finally realised the wisdom of growing flowers.

"Does Holland have more sun?" one farmer asks.

As the Greek economy goes into another year of budgetary austerity, higher selling prices will be the main incentive to change crops. There will be no government incentives, other than money available under the community's Mediterranean development aid for planting varieties that have longer growing periods and, thus, greater consumption.

The problems of over-production are exemplified by the orange crop. In 1989, a year of record exports, 310,000 tons of oranges were sold as fruit, 190,000 tons went for juice, and 270,000

tons were wasted, being buried as surplus.

An agriculture ministry official explains the background: "When the [community] dumping price is 25-26 drachmas a kilo and the regular price is 33-34 drachmas, it has paid farmers to keep producing too much."

Now, however, with the advice of 60 to 70 working agronomists in every Greek prefecture, wasteful crops are steadily being replaced by more profitable ones.

Quality is also the issue in the wine-making sector. For centuries Greeks made their wine in a somewhat haphazard way, mixing varieties, losing control of the production process and making some wine that was unpleasant enough to need resin to cover the flavour.

The resulting low-quality to mediocre wine, retsina, gave Greek wine its reputation and identity which has only lately begun to fade.

During the past ten years, Greek wine has been steadily improving to western European and Californian standards. Greece accounts for only 3 per cent of the Community's wine production. From 97,000 hectares of vineyards with wine grape varieties, Greek wineries produce five million hectolitres annually, 1.2 million hectolitres of which are bottled. Of this production, 60 per cent is red and 10 per cent is white.

Still, only a small percentage of production is exported, 70 per cent of that to Germany and the remainder to France, Belgium, Canada, the United States and Britain.

Much of the progress is due to compliance with the requirements of the Community, which Greece joined in 1981, and to the better educated scions of the great wine-making families, who gained control of their enterprises in the Seventies and Eighties and introduced new technologies.

Vasilis Kourtakis, for instance, after training in wine-making in Dijon, France, returned to expand his grandfather's and father's business 47 times within 13 years. He is now president of the community's wine industry and commerce committee in Brussels.

In response, growers have been experimenting in the past five years with many imported "noble" or "cosmopolitan" grape varieties. These include cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, grenache, carignan, chardonnay and ugni blanc.

Vins de pays, the country wines of France, appeared about two years ago and "make us all feel very optimistic about their future and about the improving image of all Greek wines", says Constantine Antonopoulos, a director of Achaia-Clauss, the

oldest wine company in the country.

Achaia-Clauss itself has been awarded 136 international honorary distinctions, 15 grand prizes, 51 golden medals, 15 silver medals and 32 diplomas.

The Greek wine sector began reorganising after community entry with the establishment of a vineyard registry and creation of 28 specific Appellation of Controlled Origin (AOC) wine regions. As a result, wine companies began to cultivate more local Greek varieties.

J. Boutari and Son, which employs most of the new breed of foreign-trained wine-makers, now leads this trend with a million square metres of vineyards and fields throughout the country and wineries at Naousa and Goumenissa in northern Greece, Pikiro north of Athens, Nemea in the Peloponnese, and on the islands of Santorini, Paros and Crete.

"Appellation wines," they are a gift from the gods," says John Boutari, a third-generation producer.

Greece is blessed with many varieties of its own and a soil that in seven out of every ten years produces "vintages much above average by international standards", Mr Antonopoulos says.

With its innate varieties and soils and the introduction of new technologies and quality control, Greek wine is now much better than supposed.

During the next five years, wine-producers will conduct an image-building campaign that they believe could make wine the most valuable export in Greek agriculture.



Old ways die hard: the colourful tradition of pressing grapes continues in Corfu



Mediterranean mood: Khania on the island of Crete

When veterans of the Battle of Crete arrive from Britain, Australia and New Zealand for a fiftieth anniversary commemoration next spring, the islanders will be doing their best to prove that quality tourism has reached their corner of Greece. Western Crete, where German paratroopers staged the first airborne invasion in 1941, remained off the beaten track for years, even after tourists started coming in droves to other parts of the island. The area still has only a few large hotel complexes.

The region acquired a reputation for backpacking. Walkers and birdwatchers enjoy tramping through the White Mountains, split by one of Europe's longest and most spectacular ravines, the Samaria gorge. Long stretches of yellow sand on the south coast are rarely crowded because some of the roads, originally built by the German occupiers, are dusty and potholed enough to deter most drivers.

However, Khania, the district capital, has acquired a polish looking in other Cretan ports. Its medieval waterfront, flanked by stone mansions of recognisably Venetian ancestry, is lined with bars and restaurants where the waiters are as likely to be Scandinavian as

The new hotels that could bring tourism up to date

Greek. Traditional tavernas run by fishermen's families flourish around an inner harbour, though their customers seem to drink as much whisky as ouzo.

The real tourism advance is in hotels. The town of Khania and its surroundings offer some of the most comfortable small establishments to be found in Greece. A restored Venetian nobleman's mansion standing high above the harbour has just eight rooms, furnished in the traditional Cretan style. A guest-house in a narrow alleyway features a handful of rooms all furnished with four-poster beds.

The former German consulate, a handsome 19th-century building, has been renovated as an eight-room hotel by its owners, the Naxakis family, who have installed a large swimming-pool in the walled garden. They left intact an enormous concrete bath standing on a dais near by. It was built for Rommel when he stopped off in

Crete to rest after the German defeat at El Alamein.

"Our house was taken over by the Germans as a club for officers during the occupation and the family moved next door," Irene Naxakis says. "We decided to renovate the old home as a rather unusual kind of hotel."

The trend towards transforming old-fashioned homes into small hotels for more affluent travellers grew out of the Greek Tourist Organisation's traditional settlements programme for attracting visitors to out-of-the-way places.

There are now about 50 mountain and island villages in which groups of houses have been converted and furnished in local styles. They range from a monastery at Monemvasia, a rocky medieval fortress linked to the coast of the eastern Peloponnese by a causeway, to Ottoman-style mansions at Papinon in northwestern Greece. The tourism ministry, which has long been trying to

upgrade the quality of Greek facilities and services to lure more high-spending visitors, is delighted by private competition for the programme.

"Tourism is the country's biggest industry but it needs a tremendous amount of qualitative improvement. Private enterprise is the key to doing it," Yannis Kefaloyannis, the tourism minister, says. "We have had too many years of relying on sheer quantity."

Early tourist arrivals grew from five million to eight million during the Eighties, but foreign exchange inflows failed to keep pace. In 1980 Greece earned \$1.6 billion (£840 million) from tourism, yet in 1989 the figure was only \$2 billion (£1.05 billion). "We have to start providing more of the facilities that wealthier tourists want, and ones that will also extend the tourist season," Mr Kefaloyannis says.

"Marinas, golf courses and conference facilities are top of our development agenda."

Sailing appeals to the wealthy but, despite the wide availability of yacht charters in Greece, many island harbours lack mooring space, not to mention refuelling and waste disposal facilities. A dozen marinas are under construction and Mr Kefaloyannis hopes that incentives offered under the government's revised investment law will add another 20 in the next five years.

Greece has only four golf courses and the agriculture ministry has been asked to come up with suitable sites on long-term leases. State-owned hotels belonging to the Astir and Xenia chains, which occupy some of the best locations in Greece, but are notoriously badly run, will be leased to private managers.

It will take time, however, for Greek tourism to develop a different image, and the short-term outlook is not encouraging. The confrontation in the Gulf has seriously affected 1991 bookings by American tour operators. Americans spend twice as much on average as western European tourists in Greece, but they are also the most likely to be scared away.

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Sea yields secrets of ancient trade

GREECE's small band of marine archaeologists took almost 15 years to win permission to explore the country's most important underwater site: a 4,000-year-old shipwreck off Dokos, an uninhabited slab of rock rising out of the Saronic Gulf near the resort island of Hydra.

The wreck was discovered in 1975 during an underwater survey carried out by the late Peter Throckmorton, an American expert who recognised the distinctive shapes of Helladic vases from the Early Bronze Age in a thick encrustation on the seabed.

This is the oldest known shipwreck in the Mediterranean. There are technical difficulties, however, in excavating a site that slopes steeply from 14 metres to 32 metres in depth. These difficulties reinforced the culture ministry's reluctance to embark on an expensive long-term project with only a handful of trained divers on its staff.

Now, however, the latest American computer technology for seabed excavation is being used to log finds from the prehistoric vessel by an international team, working under the umbrella of the Hellenic Institute for Marine Archaeology, a privately run organisation.

"It will probably take ten years to complete, but we are working on one of the most significant underwater discoveries ever made, the first evidence of organised trade in the Mediterranean," says Nikos Tsouchlos, technical director of the dig.

There were doubts at first whether the Dokos find was really a shipwreck. Some people thought it might just be a cargo dumped overboard by a Bronze Age captain whose ship ran into heavy weather.

Other sceptics argued that the piled-up pottery lay so close to the shore that it could have been tipped into the sea by the inhabitants of an Early

summers of diving off Dokos, however, members of the excavation team say they are convinced the vases went down with a ship that founded around 2200 BC.

One compelling piece of evidence was the discovery of 150 rough-hewn millstones on the seabed. Millstones are documented from later in antiquity as a common form of ballast for ancient Aegean trading vessels.

"If you had to jettison the cargo, why on earth would you throw out the millstones too and risk leaving your ship without ballast?" Mr Tsouchlos asks. When the divers surveyed the surrounding area, they picked up two round stones with holes bored through the centre, of a type identified as anchors on other sites. The stones lay 40 metres away from the bulk of the finds, and closer to the open sea. The find spots, 20 metres apart, suggested they were dropped by a ship manoeuvring into harbour.

The excavators admit they are unlikely to find any remains of the ancient ship, because wood and other organic materials disintegrate quickly under water unless they happen to be protected by a layer of sand or silt. One section of the site is covered with a sandy deposit, so a slight possibility does exist of recovering a timber fragment.

Little is known of Early Bronze Age seafaring, though several schematic illustrations of ships appear on contemporary pottery from the Cycladic Islands.

"It looks as though vessels of that period were at least 25 metres long, with a raised stern, and were powered by oars. We have no evidence for sails being used in the third millennium BC," says Yiannis Vichos, a specialist on ancient ships who is working on the Dokos project.

The pottery found off Dokos features the sophisticated, elegant shapes of the Early

bellied "saucboats", flasks, cups and braziers. Scattered over 450 square metres, the sherds illustrate the full range of wares known from the period, and bear a close resemblance to material from Attica.

Mr Vichos believes the ship may have been following an established trade route south from Athens, working a course through the Saronic Gulf islands to the coast of the eastern Peloponnese.

Sea transport, he points out, was the only practicable way of carrying fragile goods for long distances in prehistoric Greece.

The discovery among the

potsherds of two rod-shaped lead ingots, each weighing about half a kilogram, supports the theory, as lead and silver were mined throughout antiquity near Lavrion, on the tip of the Attica peninsula.

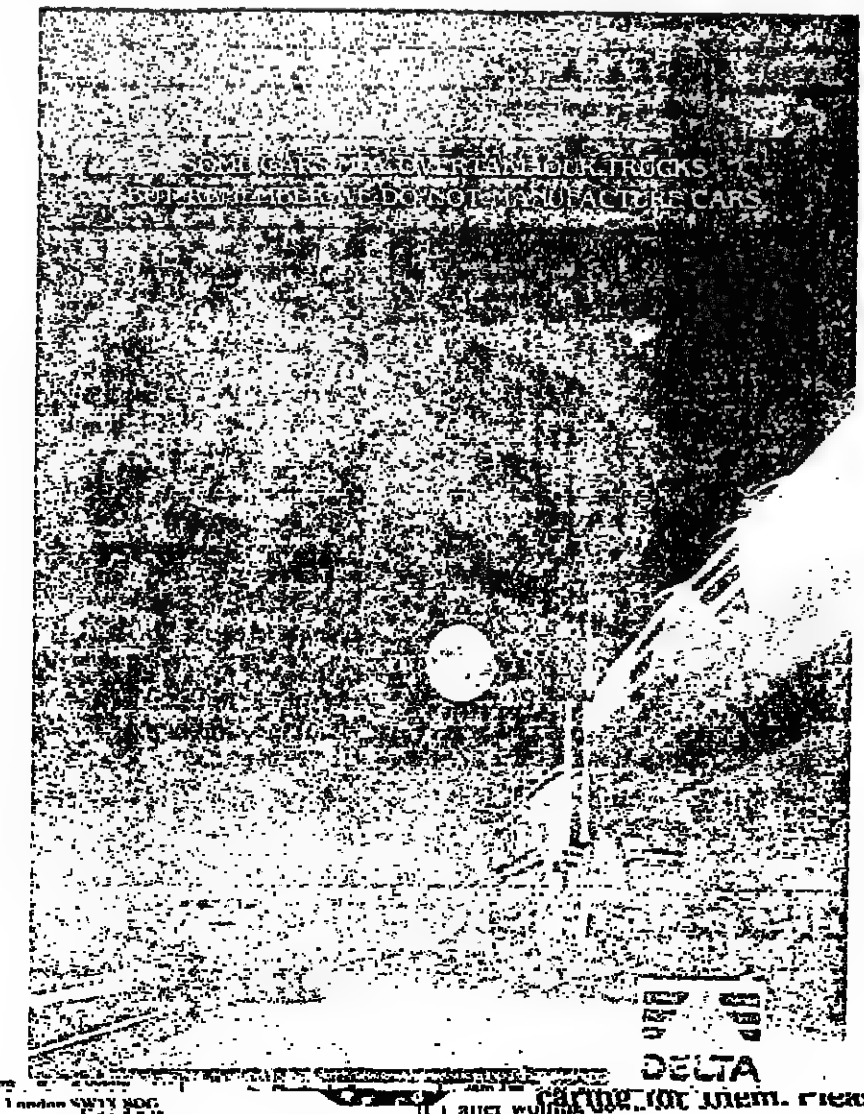
Use of the sonic high accuracy ranging and positioning system (Sharp), developed at the Institute for Nautical Archaeology at Texas A and M University, speeds up the divers' job of recording the location of every object on the seabed. Three transceivers, which transmit and receive high-frequency acoustic signals, are attached to poles planted in the seabed.

They track signals emitted

by another transceiver held by the diver, who points it towards an artefact. The signals are transmitted to a personal computer operated from a floating barge above the wreck. A map of every section of the site is traced on the screen and stored on a disc.

"This was the first time the Sharps system has really worked successfully in the Mediterranean," Mr Tsouchlos said. "It has tremendous advantages because you can accurately record objects piled on top of one another and end up with a three-dimensional drawing."

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EDUCATIONAL

Continued from
page 15

FELLOWSHIPS

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VISITING FELLOWSHIP
IN MEDICINE

The College has been enabled by a generous benefaction by the Private Patients Plan Medical Trust to institute a scheme whereby one or more Visiting Fellows will be appointed each year for one to three terms to pursue research in medicine or related Medical Sciences. Visiting Fellowships are designed to allow distinguished scholars from other universities and institutions in this country and abroad to work with colleagues in University departments or associated institutions in Cambridge. No stipend will be paid, but the Visiting Fellow will receive a free room in College or assistance with accommodation elsewhere, seven free meals a week at the High Table and a butler allowance. Limited funds are available to help with travel and research expenses. Applications are now invited. Those for periods in the academic year 1991-92 must be received by 15 February 1991 and those for subsequent periods by 1 June 1991. Further details may be obtained from the Fellows' Secretary, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL (fax +44-223-324810).

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University of London
Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

Prince Henry the Navigator
CHAIR OF PORTUGUESE HISTORY

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The Chair will be held in the College's Department of Portuguese, the only department in the UK exclusively devoted to the teaching and research of Portuguese, Brazilian and Afro-Portuguese Studies. The incumbent will be expected to contribute to a further strengthening of the Department's national and international links. In addition, the person appointed will be expected to teach and supervise research in all major periods of Portuguese History. Portugal's overseas expansion, although an essential component of teaching, need not be the incumbent's area of specialized research.

Applications are invited from persons interested in holding the post full time or, in the case of Scholars with other professional commitments (either in the UK or abroad), on a part-time basis.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Personnel Officer, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel. 071 873 2063 or by FAX on 071 873 2308.
Closing date for applications, 31st January 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

An association with Research and University Colleges

TWO UNIVERSITY
LECTURERSHIPS IN
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the above lectureships to be filled from 1 October 1991. Tutorial fellowships may be available at Brasenose and University Colleges respectively. University stipend according to age on the scale £15,000 - £25,000. Details of the University and college appointments may be obtained from Professor J.E. Baldwin, FRSE, The Dyson Perrins Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QY, to whom completed applications (one copy suitable for photocopying reproduction) should be sent by 21 January 1991.

JUNIOR LECTURESHIP
IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

The English Board intends to make an appointment to a Junior Lectureship in English Literature for the period 1 October 1991 until 30 September 1993. Salary on the scale £11,985-£12,785. An associated stipendiary college lectureship may be offered. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of English Language and Literature, University Office, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (Telephone 01865 27071), by whom completed applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates) should be received by 31 January 1991.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

CHAIR OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

The University invites applications from candidates with medical qualifications registrable in the United Kingdom for a full-time Chair of Geriatric Medicine, based at the University Hospital of South Manchester. The Chair has been vacant following the retirement of Professor John Brookhurst. The South Manchester Health Authority is prepared to offer an Honorary Consultant contract to a suitable candidate, subject to a satisfactory reference. Applications (one copy suitable for photocopying reproduction) giving full details of qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent, not later than February 1st, 1991, to the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL, from whom further particulars may be obtained (Tel: 061-275 2028). Quoted ref: 343/80. Overseas candidates may apply by facsimile No. 061-275 5306 in the first instance. The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGECollege Lectureship
in Law

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, to whom applications should be sent together with a curriculum vitae, a statement of current research and the names of two referees.

The closing date for applications is 8 January 1991.

UNIVERSITY
OF MANCHESTERCHAIR OF
LAW

The University invites applications for this Chair from those with suitable academic or professional qualifications and experience, having interests in any area of Law or Legal Studies. Salary within the range for Professors.

Superannuable. Applications (one copy, suitable for photocopying) giving full details of experience, etc. and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Registrar, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, by Friday, January 19th, 1991. Particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Registrar quoting reference 343/80. Overseas candidates may apply by facsimile No. 061-275 2028. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Department of Law

READERSHIPS/SENIOR
LECTURES/LECTURES

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Salary will be on Senior Lecturer scale (£23,423 - £26,471 per annum) or Lecturer A (£12,086 - £16,755 per annum) or Lecturer B (£17,453 - £22,311 per annum) scales.

Applications in writing (two copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees for a Readership or Senior Lectureship and two referees for a Lectureship, should be received by the Registrar (S141/1), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, by 9th January 1991. Further particulars of this post may be obtained by telephoning Colchester (0206) 873462 (24 hours).

UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Department of Psychology

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Research on Reading and
Handedness

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Applications with CV and names and addresses of 2 referees should be sent to Dr Marian Annett, Department of Psychology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH. For further information contact Dr Annett on (0533) 622162. Closing date for applications: 31 January 1991.

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LECTURESHIPS

UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF
SWANSEALectureships in
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UNIVERSITY
APPOINTMENTS

University of Cambridge

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London retain their pride despite breathing hard before their West Country date with destiny

A team of all the talents is shaken but not yet stirred

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

London Division..... 25
Midlands Division..... 24

LONDON have yet to win a divisional match against the South and South-West when playing in the West Country, so success in this season's ADT championship is far from cut and dried, though they remain the only unbeaten side. Weather permitting, they travel to Gloucester next weekend, breathing heavily after defeating the Midlands on Saturday at the Sloop Memorial ground by two goals, a try and three penalty goals to three goals and two penalties.

Hailed as the team of all the talents, London had to summon all their experience to quash the Midlands challenge in a match far better than we had a right to expect in the bitter weather, though the pitch was in good condition and no rain fell during the game. An hour had passed before they took the lead for the first time and at that stage they were happy merely to play the game in the Midlands half, knowing that a hard-earned supervisory supremacy would prevent a breakthrough.

It was that domination which led the Midlands selectors to wear an air of resignation after the game. "London read our game and brought it back to us," Peter Rossborough, the coach, said. "They did to us by the end what we had been doing to them. The longer the game went on, the more the old hands came into their own; when the pressure came the experience started to tell and the strength of people like Ackford and Winterbottom came into it."

The players might not agree entirely with that assessment; it was critical that the Midlands lock Wells, their blind-side flanker, on the half-hour. His work with Richards and Rees, aided by the strength of Rupert Moon at

scrum half, is the hinge of everything the Midlands have tried to do in this championship. Moon, too, was forced to leave the field with ten minutes to go, dazed after a bang in the face, which produced the situation of R. H. St. J. B. Moon being replaced by R. H. Q. B. Moon, his older brother.

In a match where the final advantage was so slight, the importance of such detail becomes enhanced, and though the Midlands central defence had been unhinged by a delightful try early in the game, it remained sturdy enough to ensure that, for all their territorial domination of the last half-hour, London made singularly few try-scoring opportunities.

Their eventual success materialised via the woodwork and the referee, Fred Howard, faced with a 24-13 deficit, Andrew kicked two penalties off an upright (the first of which barely made it) and Howard then awarded a penalty try when Harriman was obstructed by Potter in pursuit of his own kick ahead.

Howard was in no doubt that Harriman's pace, with only ten metres to go, would have taken him to the ball ahead of two corner-flagging Midlands defenders, a view supported by Ed Morrison, his touch judge. Had he awarded a penalty, or had Harriman kept the ball in hand and touched down in the corner, leaving Andrew with a difficult conversion, it would have been interesting to see how London would have varied their tactics had they still trailed at that stage.

But the excellence of this match was that so much was purposeful and well-planned: the Midlands carried the game to London in the first half and, though they knew what to expect, the holders were unprepared for the intensity of it. Hodgkinson's place-kicking was quite exceptional; with a difficult wind blowing across the pitch, he drilled over two

penalties and converted all three tries, two from near touch. He varies the quality of his kicking with the same facility that Dusty Hare used to demonstrate, his only failure coming from the centre spot after Ackford had been penalised for rugby's equivalent of cricket's "slogging".

Hopley's thrust and Pilgrim's angled support gave Luxton the opening try but the Midlands drew away when Ryan was dispossessed and Moon shot off down the blind side for a 50-metre run to the corner. Steele's chip embarrassed Davis sufficiently for Thame to hack on and score and even though London squeezed out a pushover try for Ryan and a penalty immediately after the interval, Moon stole to the blind side of a scrum to send over Saunders.

Thereafter, though, the Midlands were always losing ground. Their lineout effort faded and they were subjected to the same rumbling mauls they had themselves projected in the first half. Andrew, whose 13 points from kicks was also an excellent return, was able to ensure that the Midlands constantly retreated and he whittled away their lead with the self-possession which London, as a team, wore. Shaken they were but not stirred.

SCORERS: London: Tries: Harriman, Ryan, penalty try; Conversion: Andrew (2); Penalty goals: Andrew (2). Midlands: Tries: Moon, Thame, Saunders; Conversion: Hodgkinson (2); Penalty goals: Hodgkinson (2). London: Tries: Harriman, Ryan, penalty try; Conversion: Andrew (2); Penalty goals: Andrew (2). Midlands: Tries: Moon, Thame, Saunders; Conversion: Hodgkinson (2); Penalty goals: Hodgkinson (2).



Midland man in a muddle: Hackney's wings clipped and double-clipped by Winterbottom (No. 7) and Andrew

Rearranged tie may be academic

By DAVID HANDS

THE ADT divisional championship match between the North and the South and South-West, postponed on Saturday after a torrential downpour waterlogged the West Hartlepool pitch, will probably be played on December 22 at a venue to be confirmed.

The South-West arrived in Teesside after a busy flight but during mid-morning, heavy rain and driving sleet so affected the playing surface that the match had to be called off less than an hour before the start. West London to beat the South-West next weekend then they would be outright championship winners and the result

of any game played subsequently would be irrelevant, though not in the context of a trial match for players.

In any event the England selectors will go ahead with their plan to announce the national training squad on December 19. Geoff Cooke, the team manager who was snowed in at Bradford over the weekend, confirmed that the players involved must be told so they can make arrangements for time off over the period in January when the squad will be in Llanelli.

With Carling, the England captain who withdrew late on Friday from London's game against the Midlands because of a strained ankle ligament, is

optimistic he will be fit by Saturday. He watched the game at the Sloop Memorial ground, when Damian Hopley took his place at inside centre and John Buckton came into the XV at outside centre.

The game included a comparatively unusual application by the referee, Fred Howard, of law 28 as it relates to misconduct on the field. London scored a pushover try and Paul Ackford, the Harlequins and England lock, addressed some disparaging remarks to the Midlands forwards which Howard interpreted as "demonstrating" and liable to create an inflamed situation.

In cricket it would be referred to as sledging, and Howard,

acting under the law that states that it is illegal for a player to "commit any misconduct on the playing area which is prejudicial to the spirit of good sportsmanship", penalised Ackford by restarting play with a penalty to the Midlands which Simon Hodgkinson mis-kicked. Since London won by only one point, it could have been a costly outburst by the normally restrained Ackford.

The game was called off on Saturday because North Midlands was snowbound.

Neath allowed to walk on by

By GERALD DAVIES

Cardiff 3
Neath 24

NOT AT any stage did Cardiff look like giving anything remotely near a proper challenge to Neath's supremacy in Welsh rugby. Cardiff, who were thought capable of at least three goals and a try, finally quivered at the prospect, bent the knee, doffed their cap and, with an altogether inferior performance, simply allowed Neath to pass by.

The blue and black jerseys are, as it were, like a red rag to the bullish boys of the Gwent. Neath at their worst have always fancied their chances against Cardiff at their best. On Saturday, curiously, the visitors were just as the underdogs, which was very much to their

liking, knowing full well there could not be any foundation to this role. And they systematically unravelled a team which, as the match progressed, was found to have nothing whatsoever to offer.

It might even be said that the home team could have sighed with relief that they lost to only three goals and two penalties. They can thank the wind, the cold and the late hurries of snow for limiting Neath's ambitions.

The visitors exposed the home team's weaknesses in the minutes. From the lineout, which they were to dominate, Williams peeled, Gareth Llewellyn and Phillips supported, and Bridges, without much effort, penetrated what was left of the fingertip tacking to score near the posts. It was a lovely try but one which was made to look easy by Cardiff's

casual defence, which never tightened throughout the afternoon. That their scrum looked unbalanced from early on made Cardiff's prospects even bleaker. There was nowhere to turn.

Paul Thornburn, even though he failed to get the measure of the wind in his kicking, still managed to add substantially to his club's winning ways. A couple of penalties and three conversions brought his total to 11 points in the championship. As a measure of how well things are going for him these days, one huge kick from his own 22 metre line landed on the opposing 22 but 13 metres in-field. Yet the ball bounced cheekily and conveniently at a right angle and into touch.

Paul Jackson was another player who had a fine game and tore into Cardiff's too delicate

midfield. He scored the second try after Evans and Thornburn had exchanged penalties. After a free kick Jackson stood off the ensuing ruck and charged his way over, carrying several bodies on his back. He added another penalty to the contest was truly over by half-time.

Late in the game, Lally backed on a loose ball to get a try for which Thornburn again added the extra points.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Allen (2), Neath: Tries: C. Bridges, P. Jackson, C. Lally, Conversion: P. Thornburn (2); Penalty goals: P. Thornburn (2). Cardiff: Tries: Allen (2), Neath: Tries: C. Bridges, P. Jackson, C. Lally, Conversion: P. Thornburn (2); Penalty goals: P. Thornburn (2).

Super show by unstoppable Swansea

By OWEN JENKINS

Swansea 63
Pontypool 6

PONTYPOOL'S week of woe was completed by a record-breaking defeat at the hands of rampaging Swansea side at Saint Helen's. Kevin Moseley, who resigned as captain from the club last week, must have had a premonition of the nightmare that was to come.

Swansea are the most enigmatic team in Welsh rugby. When they are bad they are dreadful, but when they are good they are irresistible, and

this was Swansea at their best. Backs and forwards combined to produce a performance of brilliant individual and team skills evident to dramatic effect.

Surely rugby league cannot match this as a spectacle, and the sport's authorities need only point to it to promote the game. Swansea scored 12 tries, six in each half. It is difficult to pick out an individual performance because each man played his role. However, Reynolds, the flanker, was the catalyst at forward, displaying his speed and vision at will.

He scored three tries, as did

Taylor, the left winger, with Clement, the full back, and Reynolds getting two each. Jones, the flanker, and Hopkins, the centre, supplied the others, with Jones, the scrum half, kicking five conversions and a penalty. For Pontypool, Parry, the full back, kicked two forlorn penalties.

Pontypool were in danger from everywhere on the park. Swansea had obviously not read the script which states that Heineken League matches are supposed to be difficult to win. They ran the ball right from the kick-off. So often teams leave it until

the final 10 minutes to do this. Usually in desperation, but Swansea have showed everyone how it should be done and that league rugby can be exciting and entertaining. But Swansea are Swansea and they will be the Jekyll to Saturday's Hyde.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Taylor (2), Taylor (2), Clement (2), Reynolds (2), Jones (2), Hopkins (2), Parry (2), Conversion: P. Parry (2). Pontypool: Tries: Parry (2), Conversion: P. Parry (2). Swansea: Tries: Taylor (2), Taylor (2), Clement (2), Reynolds (2), Jones (2), Hopkins (2), Parry (2), Conversion: P. Parry (2).

Try-thirsty pack rue call of time

By BRYAN STILES

Newbridge 40
Glamorgan Wanderers 6

WHEN your team rattles up 40 points you would expect every club official to indulge in some back slapping then they get to their feet with a relish. Spirits were high but there were those who grumbled as they thawed out at the end of the bar in the Newbridge clubhouse. They grievously about the tries that got away long after Robert Davies, the referee, abandoned this match 17 minutes into the second half.

Few neutral observers—a rare breed in Wales—would have quarrelled with Mr Davies's decision to call off this one-sided spectacle with a raging snow storm sweeping the Wellfare Ground and with Newbridge so far ahead.

It had happened in the good old days of non-league rugby last season Newbridge would have been happy to shepherd the spectators back into the bar to give the takers a boost. But those who imbibe the Heineken brand of rugby in Wales have to be prepared for hangovers.

The game lasted long enough for the result to stand but Newbridge are staggering at the bottom of the premier barrel, along with the Wanderers and Aberdare, and a bumper try-count would give them more hope.

"We were just getting our second wind and another seven tries was on the cards. If only

he'd have let it go to the finish ... one Newbridge man said, ruefully. Four tries and two penalty goals to one goal.

One look at the heavy sprinkling of snow on the pitch and several Wanderers suggested the match should not start. The misgivings were justified, but it was not the conditions that undid them, simply the fire of the Newbridge players. Their driving forward play brought three tries for their lock, Allen, a Wales discard, and one apiece for his fellow lock, Collins, and the hooker, Waters. The zest with which they played also set up tries for Rees and Harris.

Newbridge took full advantage of the wind in the first half to register a 30-0 lead. Goodfellow scored a breakthrough early in the second half, but any thoughts that Wanderers were going to profit from the ever-strengthening wind were short-lived.

After a burst of the milling throng to score his final tries, and when Harris converted the last try the referee must have looked into the eyes of the punch-drunk visitors and seen that they had had enough.

SCORERS: Newbridge: Tries: Allen (2), Collins, Rees, Waters, Harris, Conversion: P. Williams, Glamorgan Wanderers: Try: Goodfellow, Conversion: P. Williams.

Harlequins stalwart dies at 58

JOHN CURRIE, the former chairman of Harlequins, whose playing partnership with David Marquee in the second row of England sides of the 1950s became the stuff of legend, died on Saturday (David Hands writes). He was 58.

Currie, a recruitment manager, who was on the Harlequins and Middlesex committees, was travelling to Loughborough to collect David, one of his three children, from university. He was taken ill during the journey and was found to be dead on arrival at hospital in Leicester.

He won 25 England caps, the first in 1956 when he was a student at Oxford University. He was a member of the England team that won the grand slam for the first time since the second world war.

Of his international appearances, 22 were in partnership with Marquee, his contemporary at Cambridge. They played against each other in four university matches before joining forces at Harlequins, a complementary unit in which the 6ft 5in Marquee jumped in the middle of the lineout while Currie, at 6ft 3in the shorter man, played at the front. He was also that rare player, a goal-kicking tight forward.

Currie was an England selector from the 1970s and became an energetic chairman of Harlequins in 1980, a post he held for eight years, during which the playing structure of the club was radically altered to make the force it has now become in domestic rugby.

Late tries bring colour to error-ridden game

By PETER BILLS

London Irish Select 6
Queensland 16

THE last time Queensland came this way, in 1986, Andrew Slack's squad had to endure temperatures below freezing at Blackheath and freezing rain in Ulster. Slack, now retired but on holiday here, and Queensland seemed to have a penchant for arriving in grim weather. The climate at Sunbury yesterday resembled the Queensland coast only in the close proximity of a roaring log fire in the bar. Those tourists not needed yesterday's colleagues struggled in their first competitive match since September.

Queensland were engaged in a spoiling, error-ridden match until they got into some sort of form in the last quarter. Then, two tries in the final eight minutes secured a victory by a goal, a try and two penalty goals to two penalty goals.

A cut head forced Nasser's replacement scored the push over try which finally nudged Queensland clear with eight minutes left.

Then, from second phase possession Slattery made a half-brake, Herbert took it on and Carozza, put Siganiyivi over wide out. Bray had kicked two penalty goals in the twelfth and 55th minutes. Bray missed two other but did convert Eales's try. Mullin and George landed goals but, those moments apart, the Irish side's industry brought scant reward.

SCORERS: London Irish: Penalty goals: Mullin, George, Queensland: Tries: Eales, Herbert, Siganiyivi, Conversion: Slattery, Penalty goal: Slattery (2). London Irish Select: Tries: Herbert, Siganiyivi, Conversion: Slattery (2). Queensland: Tries: Eales, Herbert, Siganiyivi, Conversion: Slattery (2).

ADT divisional championship

London 25, Midlands 24
London: Tries: Luxton, Ryan, Penalty try; Conversion: Andrew (2); Penalty goals: Andrew (2). Midlands: Tries: Moon, Thame, Saunders; Conversion: Hodgkinson (2); Penalty goals: Hodgkinson (2).

ADT county championship

North
First division: Postponed: Lancashire v North and Midlands; Warwickshire v Yorkshire; Second division: Cumbria v Nottingham; 4. Lancashire v Yorkshire; 12. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 19. Warwickshire v Yorkshire; 26. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 3. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 10. Nottingham v Cumbria; 17. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 24. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 31. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 7. Nottingham v Cumbria; 14. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 21. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 28. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 4. Nottingham v Cumbria; 11. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 18. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 25. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 2. Nottingham v Cumbria; 9. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 16. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 23. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 30. Nottingham v Cumbria; 6. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 13. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 20. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 27. Nottingham v Cumbria; 4. Gloucestershire v Somerset; 11. Somerset v Gloucestershire; 18. Yorkshire v Lancashire; 25. 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CRICKET

West Indies should cruise in as middle order steadies boat

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN LAHORE

ALREADY leading by 302 runs, and with two days' play remaining, West Indies are as sure as can be of winning the third and deciding Test match at theaddafi Stadium here. Only rain can save Pakistan now, and there is as much chance of that as there would be of snow holding up a Test at Lord's.

As it happens, when play ended on Saturday batting was being made to look easier than at any time in the match; but not too much notice should be taken of that.

After West Indies, in their second innings, had had a fearful struggle to get to 47 for four, Hooper and Logie played so well that Pakistan, handicapped by an injury to Wasim Akram, went to pieces. The pair added an unbroken 81 in 14 overs.

Even if he had been allowed to pitch up the pitch yesterday, the groundsman could still have done no more than postpone Pakistan's seemingly inevitable demise. When, in the New Year Test of 1954, the Melbourne curator found that he, too, had produced a rapidly disintegrating pitch, he gave it a surreptitious and unauthorised watering — a thorough sprinkling anyway — over the weekend in the hope of sealing it. This worked, in fact, to England's advantage by improving things for their second innings. By the time Australia were in again, needing 240 to win, the cracks had deepened and Tyson and Statham bowled them out for 111. On what already resembles a dirt track here, Pakistan will do well to make even as many as that in their second innings.

Yesterday was a rest day, something which Denis Waigh, the West Indian physiotherapist (he has been

with them for 12 years), considers essential if cricketers are to give of their best from the start to finish of a Test match. So did Bernard Thomas, who knows as much as anyone about keeping sportsmen up to the mark, having tuned the team's muscles on many an MCC tour.

I remember how cross England were when first told that they would have to play five days off the reel in Australia because that was what the television people wanted. Now, for equally commercial reasons, England have come round to doing the same thing. To their dismay, the West Indians have been told that four of their five Tests in England next summer, there will be Sunday play and consequently no rest day.

Things look like being very different for Pakistan, who may well find that after this present match they have no more Test cricket for 18 months. Because of the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February/March 1992, England have already excused themselves from touring Pakistan next winter, and it seems unlikely that Pakistan will be going to India next month, to play five Test matches, as they are scheduled to do.

Although officially that tour is still on, unofficially it is being seen as an unnecessary and unwelcome risk to send a Pakistan team to India at the moment. Many feel that there is enough trouble there already between Hindu and Muslim without the extra flash point which the presence of a Pakistan team could represent. What an irony, though, that Mohammed Azharuddin, India's captain, should be a Muslim.

Some might say that there is not much cricket going on in

Pakistan even now. So far, only 164 overs have been bowled in the third Test match in three virtually cloudless days. Because of the dew at this time of year each day's start (timed for 10am) is predictably delayed. Play began 20 minutes late on the first day, 45 on the second, and 35 on the third. The close (timed for 4.25pm) is always early, owing to the twilight. With the West Indians bowling only 14.2 overs in 85 minutes on Saturday morning, and Pakistan playing for time from lunchtime onwards, we had a 49-over day.

Because of the pitch there will still be a result, but that should not stop the Pakistan board from never playing another Test match in Lahore in December. Had the first Test been in Lahore and this one in Karachi, rather than the other way round, I am assured that the problems of light and dew would have been avoided.

WEST INDIES: First innings 384 (C. L. Hooper 134, Wasim Akram 49 for 91).

Second innings: 175 (C. L. Hooper 54, Wasim Akram 49 for 91).
Pakistan: 1st innings 175 (C. L. Hooper 54, Wasim Akram 49 for 91).
2nd innings 175 (C. L. Hooper 54, Wasim Akram 49 for 91).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-15, 3-47, 4-77, 5-111, 6-111, 7-111, 8-111, 9-111, 10-111, 11-111, 12-111, 13-111, 14-111, 15-111, 16-111, 17-111, 18-111, 19-111, 20-111, 21-111, 22-111, 23-111, 24-111, 25-111, 26-111, 27-111, 28-111, 29-111, 30-111, 31-111, 32-111, 33-111, 34-111, 35-111, 36-111, 37-111, 38-111, 39-111, 40-111, 41-111, 42-111, 43-111, 44-111, 45-111, 46-111, 47-111, 48-111, 49-111, 50-111, 51-111, 52-111, 53-111, 54-111, 55-111, 56-111, 57-111, 58-111, 59-111, 60-111, 61-111, 62-111, 63-111, 64-111, 65-111, 66-111, 67-111, 68-111, 69-111, 70-111, 71-111, 72-111, 73-111, 74-111, 75-111, 76-111, 77-111, 78-111, 79-111, 80-111, 81-111, 82-111, 83-111, 84-111, 85-111, 86-111, 87-111, 88-111, 89-111, 90-111, 91-111, 92-111, 93-111, 94-111, 95-111, 96-111, 97-111, 98-111, 99-111, 100-111, 101-111, 102-111, 103-111, 104-111, 105-111, 106-111, 107-111, 108-111, 109-111, 110-111, 111-111, 112-111, 113-111, 114-111, 115-111, 116-111, 117-111, 118-111, 119-111, 120-111, 121-111, 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1109-111, 1110-111, 1111-111, 1112-111, 1113-111, 1114-111, 1115-111, 1116-111, 1117-111, 1118-111, 1119-111, 1120-111, 1121-111, 1122-111, 1123-111, 1124-111, 1125-111, 1126-111, 1127-111, 1128-111, 1129-111, 1130-111, 1131-111, 1132-111, 1133-111, 1134-111, 1135-111, 1136-111, 1137-111, 1138-111, 1139-111, 1140-111, 1141-111, 1142-111, 1143-111, 1144-111, 1145-111, 1146-111, 1147-111, 1148-111, 1149-111, 1150-111, 1151-111, 1152-111, 1153-111, 1154-111, 1155-111, 1156-111, 1157-111, 1158-111, 1159-111, 1160-111, 1161-111, 1162-111, 1163-111, 1164-111, 1165-111, 1166-111, 1167-111, 1168-111, 1169-111, 1170-111, 1171-111, 1172-111, 1173-

Montpelier Lad can spearhead treble for in-form Doughty

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

NEALE Doughty's fine riding, for Gordon Richards in particular, has been a notable feature of the current season. With 18 weeks gone and 25 to come, Doughty is already on the 46-winner mark which is only two short of his previous best total for an entire season, achieved in 1983-4.

At Edinburgh today, I expect the successful Greystoke trainer to provide him with yet more ammunition in the form of a treble on Teacake (1.15), Montpelier Lad (1.45) and Candlelight (2.45).

In going nap on Montpelier Lad to win the Scottish Series Juvenile Championship Qualifier, I am aware that it is perfectly possible to make out a good case for backing Applianceoffence instead, the two in question having both run against Longshoreman at Catterick recently.

Applianceoffence was beaten three lengths by that horse at level weights last month whereas Montpelier Lad beat him by four lengths there last Thursday when in receipt of 7lb.

It will need all of Doughty's considerable skill to get Teacake home first past the

post in the Musselburgh Claiming Chase. But the opposition is so moderate that I consider the risk worth taking with a horse who has been runner-up in a fair novice chase at Newcastle this season.

Otherwise it could easily pay to follow horses ridden by Peter Niven for Mary Reveley, another successful combination lately.

Fairways On Target, who was beaten only a neck by Antiguan Smile in his first race over hurdles after winning two bumpers at Hexham and Market Rasen, can start the ball rolling for them by capturing the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier at the beginning of the programme.

Stable companion Snowfire Chap looks capable of winning the Wee Jimmy Mitchell Handicap Chase if showing the sort of form that enabled him to win the Night Nurse Trophy at Sedgfield at the end of October.

After slipping badly going into a fence in his only subsequent race on the same track, he was wisely pulled up by Niven who felt that he might have hurt his back. Happily, those misgivings proved unfounded and Snowfire Chap is fine.

At her best, Miss Club Royal, who won four times last season, would prove a big threat, even under top weight, but she has failed to complete the course in both her races this autumn.

In the circumstances, River House, who was beaten three lengths by Shoon Wind on his seasonal debut at Hexham last month, could turn out the biggest danger.

Well that Eleven Lights should go for Mrs Reveley and Niven in the Gorebridge Handicap Hurdle, I marginally prefer the more consistent Easy Over, who has enjoyed a nice break since winning very easily at Southwell at the beginning of October.

Docklands Express (Anthony Tary, right) and Pendennis (Richard Danwoody) jump the last together in the Europak Handicap Chase at Lingfield Park on Saturday. Docklands Express went on to win by 2½ lengths

Aga Khan says Britain should look to Europe

By RICHARD EVANS

LORD Harrington, senior steward of the Jockey Club, will deliver one of the most crucial speeches for years on racing's future when he stands up at the Gimcrack dinner in York tomorrow evening. He will attempt to point the way forward for an industry which will soon feel the full blast of recession.

But with 1993 and the Single Market just round the corner, it is sufficient to concentrate on Britain's racing difficulties in isolation.

The Aga Khan has already delivered one highly effective blast at Britain's racing establishment in the past week by withdrawing all his horses from training here.

In an interview with *The Times*, he fired a second broadside by warning of the dangers of British racing looking inwardly at its problems, and the need for a fundamental reorganisation of the sport throughout Europe.

While he believes the approach Lord Zealand adopted in highlighting the need to take a total view of racing was correct, "my instinct would have been to take it outside Britain".

"I would have started by saying 'what is going to be the profile of the thoroughbred industry in western Europe after 1993. What happens to the movement of professional horses, what happens under the labour laws, what happens to the movement of capital, to scientific administration, and to betting'."

The future of racing is still unresolved, Sangster is hopeful that Hills can buy the complex and has given the trainer until February to raise the £12 million asking price.

Dickinson, linked with a proposed bid this time last year, reiterated that he has no interest in returning. "I am absolutely happy in America," he said.

mutual has a monopoly, where it has to share betting with the bookies or where bookies are allowed to do what they want.

"You are entering into a highly complex domain. My sense is that if the British industry wants to keep its correct position it cannot simply look inwardly towards itself. It has to say what is going to happen when western Europe becomes a common market with all the rights and freedoms of 1993 onwards."

"So, rightly or wrongly, my tendency would have been to look at the wider dimension first and then try to plot within that wider dimension where the various components of British racing would like to find themselves."

"It may be rather theoretical as an approach, rather academic, some would say it is not practical. But it is the only way I would know how to set up a multi-road network with all the signposts you need, because it is multi-European."

Racing in France, Ireland, Italy and Germany faces problems. In each country there are intrinsic, local difficulties which need to be tackled, "but simply addressing them within that context is not going to be sufficient."

The Aga Khan believes a European-wide forum or enquiry must be established to examine the future of the sport. "It has to be an international forum, used to be a magnificent sport without any entrepreneurial concepts. But to me the industry's long-term ability to survive exists within an entrepreneurial context."

"I now have to think come back to what I would call basic probabilities. What one is looking at is the probabilities of the reasonably competent, the

reasonably qualified, being financially self-sustained.

"They have to be able to look at their activities year after year and they have to know if they do a good job — that their financial survival is secure, is underwritten."

Ensuring financial security for racing's professionals sounds fine in practice. But how is it achieved?

"By a long, careful study of the economic forces in play today and how you reorganise them. To me it is a fundamental reorganisation of racing on a European basis, including its financial institutions, its insurance — all the economic pillars of racing."

"Everything that has a fundamental impact on the economics of the industry has got to be looked at through a magnifying glass." Fundamental changes must follow.

As an example, he highlights the use — or lack of it — made of racing's infrastructure, including racecourses, "I am under the impression its productivity is very limited indeed. If you compare it with other industries or hotels, you could never function at break-even if you were turning over at 20 per cent of productivity."

He has discussed his thoughts with some senior industry figures in Britain, but more so in France, where the Ciga weekend, including the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, has proved such a success.

The delights of Longchamp on Arc day are a long way removed from Brighton or Catterick on a wet and windy afternoon. The Aga, unlike some, believes racing's crisis is already underway.

Thirty of the 90 horses withdrawn from Britain by the Aga Khan are to join John Oxx at Curragh in Co. Kildare.

Gifford's Arkle hero put down

By GEORGE RAE

COMMANDANTE has been put down as a result of his shuffling at Lingfield Park on Saturday.

The vet was called in to x-ray his shoulder and he found that Commandante had fractured a shoulder blade, a spokesman for Josh Gifford's Findon stable said yesterday.

The eight-year-old hit the top of the seventh fence in the Arlingford Premier Series Chase Qualifier and sprained his landing.

Although Commandante regained his feet, his jockey, Eamon McKisley, quickly pulled him up and he was brought back in a horse ambulance.

The loss is a bitter blow to Gifford. Commandante had demonstrated his quality with a victory in the Arkle Challenge Trophy at last season's Cheltenham festival, and the trainer had high hopes of a bold display in the King George VI Race Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Certainly, trained by Oliver Sherwood, was the beneficiary of Commandante's mishap. His owner, Paul Stamp, will sympathise with Gifford more than most as he too has had the misfortune to lose good horses recently.

Oh So Risky, an impressive winner at Newbury on his jumping debut, confirmed that promise with a home 2-2 at the Summit Junior Hurdle. David Elsworth would put it no higher than "a fairly useful performance", although he hedged his bets by adding that it was too soon to say how good Oh So Risky might be.

Sparkling Flame, successful in three point-to-points in Ireland, was another to win himself plenty of admirers with a 3½-length win in the Lowndes Lambbert December Novices' Chase. "There's only one way for him to go," trainer Nicky Henderson said, "and that's up."

Irwin took for his theme the need to modernise all the existing legislation on the statute

Havant go top after a weekend double

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

Havant 7
Slough 2

IN THE only Founders' National League match played yesterday, Havant achieved a runaway victory over Slough to put themselves on top of the first division table, having already beaten St Albans 2-1 on Saturday.

Don Williams stole the day's personal honours by scoring three goals for Havant, but the captain of the club, David Faulkner, was not far behind after he set up the first two goals and scored the third one himself.

Having emerged from the healing hands of the Bourne-mouth Football Club physiotherapist, Faulkner appeared to have recovered fully from the shoulder injury that had plagued him while on duty in Melbourn. He also played against St Albans on Saturday.

The Slough defence looked so vulnerable that Havant ran up a 4-0 lead within 12 minutes, and it was only after Barber had converted two short corners that the visitors began to make a match of it.

It was some time, however, before Barber found his rhythm. After Slough had conceded two goals in 12 minutes, they were awarded two short corners, but quick dashes from the line by Nail denied Barber a clear shot at goal. Despite all Havant's territorial superiority, they had to wait until the last minute for their first short corner, by which time Slough had earned as many as six.

Still, it was good to see Havant in full flow, particularly on the left of the field — an area most convenient for plunder. They were 2-0 up after just six minutes through Williams and Avery, and Faulkner's goal in the eleventh minute was soon followed by another from Coleman.

But Barber revived interest by converting short corners in the 27th and 33rd minutes, and there were moments early in the second half when a coast of shots by Slough went perilously near the mark.

Havant took up the running again, however, and Williams increased the lead to 5-2 after 41 minutes. It was only after Mackay had put a shot just wide of the far post that Williams scored Havant's sixth goal, and eventually created the opportunity for Avery to score the seventh goal in the 67th minute.

HAVANT: S. Fowler, S. Lannon, D. Roberts, R. Hill, P. Nail, A. Cole, G. Roberts, S. Avery, R. Garcia, D. Williams, D. Coleman.
SLOUGH: P. Lounson, P. Barber, M. Rickard, S. Nisbett, G. Carroll, R. Ryan, C. Heston, G. Berry, J. Linton, S. Oak, M. Heston.
Umpires: L. Allen (Southern Counties) and M. Grimstead (Southern Counties).

Hounslow forced to fight back

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE management committee of Founders' National League faces a big problem working off a backlog of 16 postponed matches brought about either by snowbound pitches or the inability of teams to travel in adverse weather conditions. As matters stand the League will be suspended after December 23, and will not be resumed until February 10 to make way for the indoor game.

Toddington did comparatively well on Saturday to hold the champions Hounslow, to a 1-1 draw, taking the lead in the seventh minute through Tony Colclough. It was less to Harker to equalise for Hounslow six minutes later.

Two goals by Robert Skinner, the first from a short corner, were not enough for Isca who were 2-2 at home to Old Longhoughton. Barker, Halls, from a short corner, and Krishnan also from a short corner, replied for Old Longhoughton, Skinner reducing the lead three minutes before the end.

Seintgate, who took a 4-0 lead by the end of the first half, eventually defeated Bosley 4-2. Love scored from two short corners for Seintgate, Soma Singh also from a short corner and Welch adding to the score. Barnett and Coombes scored in the second half for Bosley.

Havant had to work hard for their 2-1 win over St Albans. Hill converted a short corner in the 41st minute and Williams added to the score in the 66th minute. Desroget reduced the lead in the 75th minute from a short corner. Hill brought his total goals for the season to nine, drawing level with the leading scorer, Kulbir Bhaura, of Indian Gymkhana.

Eastcote took over the lead in the premier division of the Peroni South League after their 2-1 win on Saturday over Ancherians. Robertson and Bolsover scored for Eastcote, Warren Shave replying for Ancherians.

Sarbiton continued their triumphant march in the Pizz Express London League with a 1-0 victory over Purley.

Warwick abandoned but prospects bright

TODAY'S meeting at Warwick was abandoned yesterday but the prospects are bright for a near-normal return to action this week following the loss of three of Saturday's four meetings.

Despite further falls of snow yesterday, particularly in the south of England, only Warwick, in the middle of one of the worst-affected areas, has been called off so far.

Edinburgh yesterday reported "no problems" while the snow that fell on Saturday at Sedgfield, scheduled to race tomorrow, had thawed by yesterday morning.

Piumpton will hold an inspection at 10.30 this morning to determine whether racing can go ahead tomorrow. There is a light

covering of snow on the track and more is forecast.

Worcester there is "a good chance" of racing taking place on Wednesday, while the course at Haydock Park is "perfectly raceable".

Jack Bennett, racecourse manager at Worcester, said: "There is a fairly light covering of snow. There is a good chance of racing taking place on Wednesday provided we do not get any very hard frosts or more snow."

Haydock's valuable two-day fixture on Wednesday and Thursday is likely to go ahead. Terry Robinson, estate manager at the Lancashire track, said: "We have had no snow at all and the course is perfectly fit to race. Dry weather is forecast for the next four days."

Sangster to send horses to Dickinson in United States

ROBERT Sangster is to restore his links with Michael Dickinson and will send him three horses to train in the United States with the promise of more to come.

The move re-establishes a relationship that ended four years ago when Sangster replaced Dickinson with Barry Hills as his private trainer at Manton.

Dickinson, three times champion National Hunt trainer, sent out just four winners from Manton before moving to Fair Hill in Maryland, Kentucky, from where he has sent out a steady flow of winners.

He will train the three-year-old filly Philharmonia, winner of two races this year and second in a listed race at Newmarket for John Hills. Valira, winner of a Southwell maiden for Barry Hills, will also join Dickinson.

Sangster is negotiating to buy a third horse, a recent winning two-year-old colt in the United States, and has promised

Dickinson more horses next year.

A statement issued on behalf of Sangster yesterday said: "Fair Hill is acknowledged to be an excellent training facility in a good location, ideal for bridging the gap between Europe and the States."

"With Michael Dickinson showing an impressive overall strike rate and sustained, all-round ability, this is a logical place for Sangster to re-establish his existing interest in the States and to take advantage of the higher prize-money and greater opportunities which the tracks around Fair Hill provide."

Dickinson, back in Britain to visit his family, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Robert is sending these horses now with a promise of further horses for training in 1991. We are confident that they will race successfully in the States."

In 1986, Sangster blamed "fundamental differences of opinion" for the split but Dickinson did not comment on the reasons behind the latest developments.

Since his move, Dickinson has trained 15 listed winners and saddled Seattle Dawn for two group-one successes. He has 20 horses in his care.

While in England, Dickinson visited Manton for the first time since he left the multi-million pound Whitliffe training complex. "I spent two days there looking round and I was very impressed with all the gallops. Barry Hills and his gallops man have them in excellent shape," he added.

The future of Manton is still unresolved. Sangster is hopeful that Hills can buy the complex and has given the trainer until February to raise the £12 million asking price.

Dickinson, linked with a proposed bid this time last year, reiterated that he has no interest in returning. "I am absolutely happy in America," he said.

EDINBURGH

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Fairways On Target.
1.15 Teacake.
1.45 MONTPELIER LAD (nap).

By Michael Seely

1.45 MONTPELIER LAD (nap). 2.45 Mandrills Cross. 3.15 Miami Bear.
The Times Private Handicap's top rating: 2.45 CANDLEBRIGHT.

Going: good to firm (back straight, good) SIS

12.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,856; 2m) (5 runners)

1-122 FAIRWAYS ON TARGET 30 (P) (Target Teacake Lad M G Reveley 4-11-0) P Niven 30
2-290 VESPAHASE 22 (P) (McCauley) M G Reveley 4-11-0 D Crockett 27
3-111 WILLIE SPARKLE 36 (T) (Harris) M G Reveley 4-11-0 K Jones 27
4-248 ZARZANO 19 (P) (Forrest) R Lamb 4-11-0 K Jones 27
5-808 ROSEWELL 17 (P) (Warrum) M G Reveley 4-11-0 D Crockett 27

BETTING: 1-6 Fairways On Target, 12-1 Vespahase, 15-1 Willie Sparkle, 20-1 Zarzano, 25-1 Rosewell.
1000: WOODCHIEFEN 5-10-11 D Byrne (5-4) A Fowler 10 ran

FORM FOCUS FAIRWAYS ON TARGET (2m, nov ch, good)

TEACAKE (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). ZARZANO 20th at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). VESPAHASE showed best form on debut when 2nd at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). FAIRWAYS ON TARGET (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good).

1.15 MUSSELBURGH CLAIMING CHASE (22,052; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1-00-0250 TEACAKE 12 (Edinburgh) Warrum M G Reveley 4-11-0 N Doughty 30
2-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
3-11-033 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
4-00-00-00 COMEDY FAIR 7 (D, 2m) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Bickley 10-10-7 P Niven 30
5-00-00-00 LIGHTFALL 27 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
6-00-00-00 GOLDEN FANCY 7 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32

BETTING: 1-2 Teacake, 7-2 Barky on Barky, 4-1 Comedy Fair, 6-1 Lightfall, 6-1 Muck or Money.
1000: KILSYTH 10-10-0 G McCourt (11-4) M Miss S Wilson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS TEACAKE (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). COMEDY FAIR 6th at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). LIGHTFALL 27th at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). GOLDEN FANCY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good).

1.45 SCOTTISH SERIES JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,672; 2m) (4 runners)

1-1 MONTPELIER LAD 5 (P) (D Liddle) G Richards 11-2 N Doughty 30
2-1 AL FROLIC 36 (P) (Glasgow) P Monaghan 10-10 L O'Hara 27
3-2 APPLANCEOFFENCE 14 (M) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
4-1 MARLINSPORD 54 (P) (Lewes) M G Reveley 4-11-0 D Crockett 27

BETTING: 1-2 Montpelier Lad, 7-2 Applianceoffence, 7-1 Al Frolie, 12-1 Marlinspord.
1000: JOE BUNPAP 10-7 M Dwyer (7-1) T Barton 11 ran

FORM FOCUS MONTPELIER LAD (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). AL FROLIC 6th at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). APPLANCEOFFENCE 2nd at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). MARLINSPORD 54th at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good).

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 11143 0000 TIMES 12 (P) (D Liddle) G Richards 11-2 N Doughty 30
2 00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
3 00-00-00 COMEDY FAIR 7 (D, 2m) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Bickley 10-10-7 P Niven 30
4 00-00-00 LIGHTFALL 27 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
5 00-00-00 GOLDEN FANCY 7 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
6 00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27

2.15 WEE JIMMY MITCHELL HANDICAP CHASE (22,217; 3m) (6 runners)

1-111-01 MISS CLUB ROYAL 16 (P) (Edinburgh) Warrum M G Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven 30
2-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
3-00-00-00 COMEDY FAIR 7 (D, 2m) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Bickley 10-10-7 P Niven 30
4-00-00-00 LIGHTFALL 27 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
5-00-00-00 GOLDEN FANCY 7 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
6-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27

BETTING: 1-4 River House, 3-1 Snowfire Chap, 4-1 Direct Interest, 5-1 Miss Club Royal, 10-1 Work Mate, 12-1 Border Oak.
1000: GENERAL CHANDLER 8-12-0 Mr J Bradburne (5-1) Mrs S Bradburne 6 ran

FORM FOCUS MISS CLUB ROYAL (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good). COMEDY FAIR (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good). LIGHTFALL (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good). GOLDEN FANCY (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (3m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (3m, nov ch, good).

2.45 LASSWIDE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (21,974; 2m) (5 runners)

1-11-011 CANDLEBRIGHT 7 (P) (Edinburgh) Warrum M G Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven 30
2-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
3-00-00-00 COMEDY FAIR 7 (D, 2m) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Bickley 10-10-7 P Niven 30
4-00-00-00 LIGHTFALL 27 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
5-00-00-00 GOLDEN FANCY 7 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32

BETTING: 5-4 Candlelight, 7-4 Mandrills Cross, 7-2 Bobby Shark, 1-1 Palm Reader, 20-1 Tenshin.
1000: BULLY BOY 8-10-13 P Leach (7-4) W Brooks 7 ran

FORM FOCUS CANDLEBRIGHT (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). COMEDY FAIR (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). LIGHTFALL (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). GOLDEN FANCY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good).

3.15 GOREBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (21,764; 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1-365-01 THUNDER 22 (P) (D Liddle) G Richards 11-2 N Doughty 30
2-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27
3-00-00-00 COMEDY FAIR 7 (D, 2m) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Bickley 10-10-7 P Niven 30
4-00-00-00 LIGHTFALL 27 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
5-00-00-00 GOLDEN FANCY 7 (P) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
6-00-00-00 BARKY ON BARKY 10 (Edinburgh) J Hardman 4-11-0 S Stoney 27

BETTING: 5-4 Candlelight, 7-4 Mandrills Cross, 7-2 Bobby Shark, 1-1 Palm Reader, 20-1 Tenshin.
1000: BULLY BOY 8-10-13 P Leach (7-4) W Brooks 7 ran

FORM FOCUS CANDLEBRIGHT (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). COMEDY FAIR (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). LIGHTFALL (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). GOLDEN FANCY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good). BARKY ON BARKY (2m, nov ch, good) at Newcastle (2m, nov ch, good).

3.45 SCOTTISH SERIES JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,672; 2m) (4 runners)

1-1 MONTPELIER LAD 5 (P) (D Liddle) G Richards 11-2 N Doughty 30
2-1 AL FROLIC 36 (P) (Glasgow) P Monaghan 10-10 L O'Hara 27
3-2 APPLANCEOFFENCE 14 (M) (A. Heston) (Edinburgh) R Allen 5-10-7 R Heston 32
4-1 MARLINSPORD 54 (P) (Lewes) M G Reveley 4-11-0 D Crockett 27

BETTING: 1-2 Montpelier Lad, 7-2 Applianceoffence, 7-1 Al Frolie, 12-1 Marlinspord.
1000: JOE BUNPAP 10-7 M Dwyer (7-1) T Barton 11 ran

McCall rolls back the years before discontent erupts

Everton 1
Coventry City 0

Ahead of the rest: Wright, sparkles for Crystal Palace, beating Monkou, on the ground, and Durie, but Palace slipped to a 2-1 defeat

The Chelsea manager was not being deliberately dismis-

Yet Palace took the lead when Thorn, after Young had legitimately impaired Beasant's vision of a corner, forced in the goalkeeper's weak clearance.

If a hypothetical team was to be picked from the two sides to represent south-west London, Palace's contingent would be significantly minimal. Apart from Wright, only the agile Martyn, the forceful Gray, and perhaps the industrious Thomas would be contenders for selection. The rest are willing, if not particularly able, workmen.

At Stamford Bridge. - Att: 21,558. Ref: R Milford.
Full record v Crystal Palace: W 12, D 11, L 8.

HT: 1-1 CHELSEA 2 C PALACE 1

HT: 1-1.	CHELSEA 2	C PALACE 1
Scorers:	Stuart 42, Shaw (og) 77	Thorn 29
Bookings:	-	-
Subs:	-	Thompson 83

Thompson &
(McGoldrick)

	CHelsea	C PALACE
Shots (on target/total)	8 15	5 14
Corners (left/right)	5 11	3 1
Crosses (left/right)	16 23	9 17
Free kicks/pens conceded	13 -	12 -
Cautions/sendings off	- -	- -
Offsides	- 7	- 2
Possession (ruined/lost)	28 88	44 86

CHELSEA					CRYSTAL PALACE				
Player	Goals	Assists	Faults	Fouls	Player	Goals	Assists	Faults	Fouls
Bresant	1	1	0	0	Martyn	0	0	4	1
Booth	0	0	0	0	Gray	0	0	0	0
Le Sue	0	9	1	2	Shaw	0	0	0	0
Townsend	1	1	1	1	Gray	4	1	2	4
McNulty	0	0	2	2	Young	0	0	0	0
McNulty	0	0	2	2	Thorn	1	1	1	1
Saunders	0	0	0	0	Wale	0	0	0	0
Smith	1	1	2	1	Thomas	3	1	1	1
Wright	0	0	0	0	Wale	1	1	1	1
Dixon	0	0	0	0	Bright	0	0	0	0
Davis	7	1	0	0	Wright	0	0	2	3
Wise	1	3	7	1	McDermid	1	1	1	1

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By Ian Ross

Manchester United..... 1
Leeds United..... 1

Shortly before Wilkinson treated the media to an uproarious dose of Yorkshire humour, Alex Ferguson, his counterpart, had launched a not too thinly veiled attack on Leeds's uncompromising defensive stance. After lauding a game played in atrocious conditions as a "magnificent contest", Ferguson added: "They rode their luck with the offside trap. If they

The luck which Leeds were accused of monopolising was absent in the fiftieth minute when the home side moved in front by outrageous good fortune. Webb's shot from just outside the penalty area was

LEADS UNITED: J. Lude; M. Stenland, F. Haddock, D. Batzy, C. Fairclough, C. Whyte, G. Strachan, C. Shutt, L. Chapman, P. McArthur, G. Speed.

By DENNIS SICNY

Tottenham Hotspur	3
Sunderland	3

THE introduction of Paul Walsh after 56 minutes to score two goals not only transformed an entertaining match and enabled Tottenham to salvage a point and move back to third place, it also inspired a fierce debate.

After days of conjecture about the terms of a new contract offered to Terry Venables, with the suggestion that he has been asked to accept £20,000 less in wages in return for increased bonus inducements, the manager fended off questions about his constant use of Walsh as No. 12.

display by the on-form and confident Walsh that included providing the pass for Gary Lineker to head an equalising goal 38 seconds into injury time.

Enter Walsh. He slid in Gascoigne's free kick after 64 minutes and scored an equaliser with a deflection off Armstrong five minutes later. Although Pascoe restored Sunderland's lead after 75 minutes with an assist from Gabbadini, the subdued Lineker, bothered by a heel injury, squared matters at the end from Walsh's centre.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E Thorstved; M Thomas, P van den Hasse, J Edinburgh (sub: P Walsh), D Howells, G Mabbutt, P Stewart (sub: V Samways), P Gascoigne, Naylor, G Linaker, P Allen.

SUNDERLAND: T Norman; J Kay, P Hardyman, G Bennett, K Bell, G Owers, P Bracewell, G Armstrong, P Cavenport, M Gabbidon, C Pascoe.

Referee: I Hemley (sub: M E Alexander).

TOKYO (Agencies)—AC Milan captured the world club championship for the second year in a row by creating all of the goals and finishing off two of them.

The Italian club's Dutch connection outclassed the Par-

By IAN ROSS

NORMAN Whiteside, Everton's Northern Ireland international midfielder, is likely to join Sheffield Wednesday this week in an attempt to prolong a career that is threatened by injury problems.

Ron Atkinson, the Wednesday manager, confirmed yesterday that he had spoken to Howard Kendall, his Everton counterpart, about Whiteside's availability and that further talks are scheduled this week.

The likelihood is that Wednesday will make a small down payment with the balance to be paid in instalments.

"I had a chat with Howard Kendall last week and Norman's situation was something we discussed. At this stage it is tentative inquiry but it is something we are looking at," said Atkinson.

Since joining Everton Whiteside has had two knee operations and surgery to repair a damaged toe.

Atkinson, who enjoyed a successful relationship with Whiteside when the two were at Manchester United, is anxious to strengthen his senior squad as the bids to steer the South Yorkshire club back into division one at the first attempt.

Everton have been told by Wolverhampton Wanderer Steve Bull, the Englishman's international manager, that he has not found a player to arrange a player-to-player exchange deal but would like to try to do it himself.

WEEKEND RESULTS GOALSCORERS AND TABLES

A Cup

Second round

SOUTHEND (1) 5 **HAVER** (0) 2
Brooks 88 **1** **WALSLEY** (0) 1
1 **2** **3** **1** **2** **3**
Pickett 45 **1** **WALSLEY** (0) 1
Shaw 72 **1** **WALSLEY** (0) 1
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POOLS CHECK

Samways offer

THE Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, Vinny Samways, faces an uncertain future at White Hart Lane after a £750,000 bid for him by Nottingham Forest. Tottenham turned down the bid, and

44-1

Tyson hovers like a cold-blooded culler

From SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, ATLANTIC CITY

MIKE Tyson sent a chilling reminder to whoever is world champion in the new year, he is Evander Holyfield or George Foreman, of what to expect when he comes to claim the crown he lost last February in Tokyo.

Should Holyfield, the undisputed world champion, or Foreman, who challenges him on April 19, have any doubts about the seriousness of Tyson's intentions, they need only look at the havoc wrought on Alex Stewart, who was stopped in the first round at the Convention Center here on Saturday night.

The London-born Jamaican was left stunned and disorientated on the floor after two minutes 27 seconds of Tyson fury. From the unbridled manner in which Tyson went about his assault, it was clear that the former champion was in no mood to have his status as best in the world questioned.

"I never lose my confidence," he said. "It would be nice for people to hear this cocky, arrogant black guy all of a sudden having to say he lost to a better man. That's bull. I'm best."

A noted American television commentator, Larry Merchant, described Tyson as a storm which having blown itself out, was gathering in greater force again out at sea. But the destruction of Stewart seemed to me to deserve a less grandiose metaphor.

It was like the battering of an animal in a cull because of the brutality of the execution. Tyson bludgeoned Stewart to the floor three times with imprecise blows.

Stewart, who had maintained he would not be intimidated by Tyson, was all but frozen by stage-fright under his warm-up sweat when he entered the ring. There was a rat's nest of confusion in his corner as his trainer, Edward Vinnet, tried to bully him out of his fears.

But as he stood alone in the ring facing Tyson, who was banging his gloves together, one could see that neither

warmth had returned to his feet nor colour to his cheeks. At the bell he was overwhelmed by the ferocity of Tyson's attack. Within eight seconds, even before he could adjust his defences, he was on the floor from two rights.

He rose to take a standing count of eight and continued boxing but the shock was too much for his system. He could not find his feet again nor screw on his fists. He pawed feebly at the incoming Tyson and drove him across the ring, even at one point falling over himself with the weight of his swing that missed.

A right upper-cut caught Stewart, who surprisingly took it on the chin, but another untidy right hand dropped him again in an uncontrolled manner. He staggered up by eight but Tyson was on him again, terrorising him with a swing that whistled past his ear. Then a glancing left high on the head floored him again.

Frank Capucino, forgetting that the three-knockdown rule was in operation, counted over him but never completed it when he saw Stewart unable to continue. So distraught was Stewart that he could only keep repeating afterwards: "I just got caught. I just got caught. I didn't expect it. I just got caught early. My advice to Holyfield is don't do what I did. I was trying to hit him very hard but I kept missing too much."

Tyson said: "I was a little untidy but I wanted to explode on him. I knew as soon as I hit him he'd go. If I hit anyone he'd go. Too bad it had to happen to him. He's a nice guy. I knew it was all over when I caught him with a right hook to the body. Believe it or not, I punch harder to the head than I do to the body."

While at first sight it might seem that the intensity, speed and efficacy of Tyson's attack indicate that he is back to his old self, one must reserve judgment. The overall impression is far from satisfactory. Tyson's punching was much too untidy. There were more misses than clean hits as

Tyson swarmed all over Stewart. Indeed, few of Tyson's punches landed directly on target. They were mainly glancing blows.

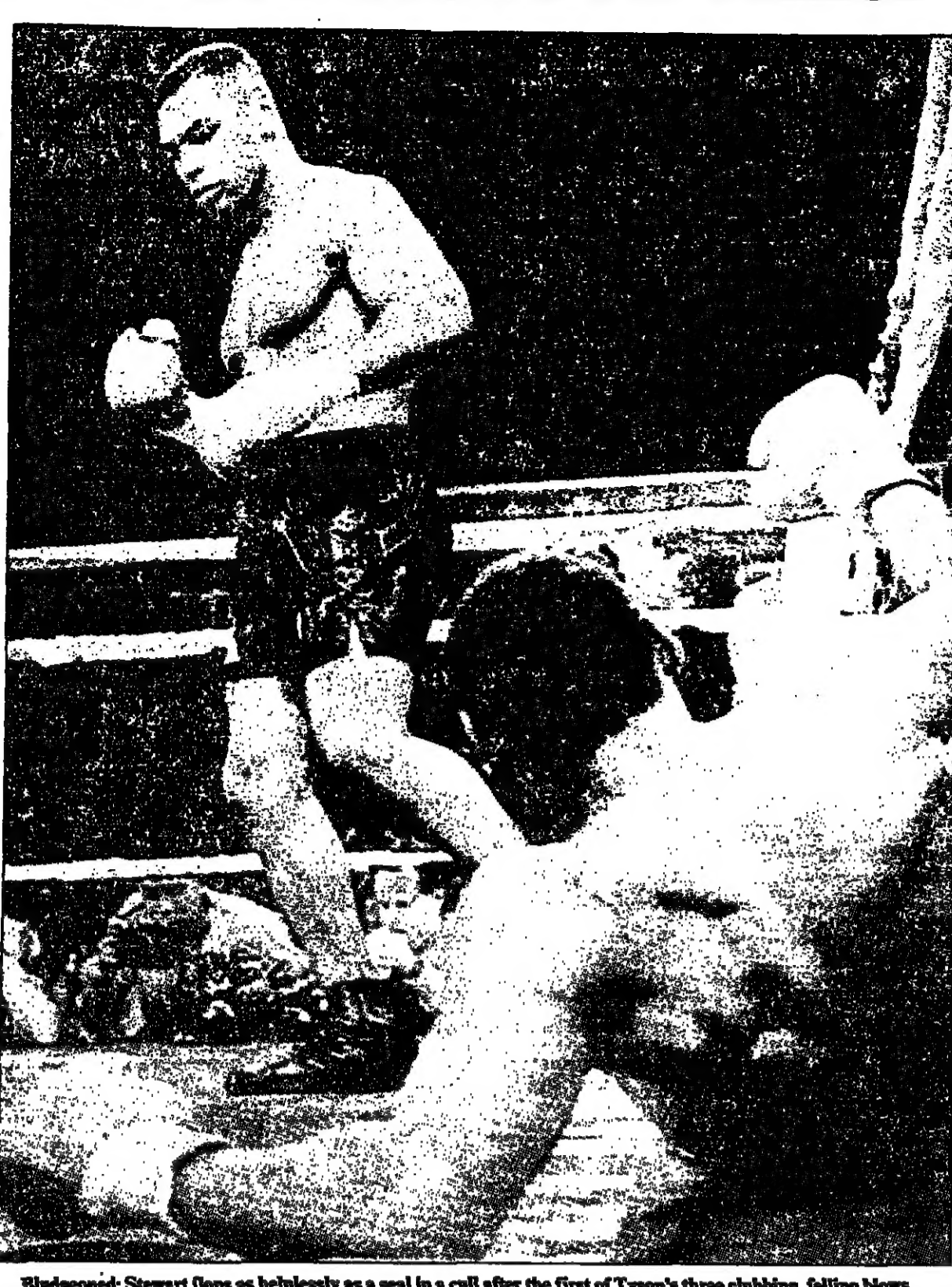
Art Miles, the trainer of Donovan Ruddock, the No. 2 contender behind Tyson, said: "He can push people about if he's stronger than them. But he doesn't seem to be able to put them away. He was not boxing, he was brawling. That was why he could not knock him out. Stewart was gone after the first knockdown. The great fighters know how to finish."

Tyson appears to have forgotten the finer points of boxing. A perfect contrast was provided by Julio Cesar Chavez, of Mexico, who stopped Kyung-Duk Ahn, of South Korea, in the third round. The International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Council light-welterweight champion, who has won all his 73 contests, 61 of them knockouts, gave an exhibition of superbly controlled boxing, picking his punches with exquisite timing, once to drop Ahn with a beautiful short right and then with a double left hook to the chin.

He was never in a hurry to swarm over his victim. He gradually lifted the pace and variety of punches to the head and body until the Korean suddenly decided he had had enough and turned his back on him and went back to his corner.

That is how Tyson used to finish a job in the old days. If he needs to box in an undisciplined way, he will be found out by another James "Buster" Douglas. Tyson must wait to hear what an arbitration court has decided about a WBC decision to strip Holyfield for defending against Foreman and not Tyson.

If the WBC wins, it will strip Holyfield and order Tyson and Ruddock to contest the vacant title. If the world body loses, Tyson will meet the winner of the bout between Holyfield and Foreman, most likely in September.



Bludgeoned: Stewart flops as helplessly as a seal in a cull after the first of Tyson's three chubbing, felling blows

EQUESTRIANISM

Bost takes lead in European League

From JENNY MACARTHUR, IN BORDEAUX

ROGER-YVES Bost, of France, a team gold medal winner at this year's World Show Jumping Championships, won the Volvo World Cup qualifier here yesterday on Norton de Rhys, less than 24 hours after winning the grand prix of Bordeaux, called the same horse. Bost now leads the European League for the World Cup.

Joe Turi, riding Waysider, the horse on which he completed a double clear round in the Washington Nations Cup in October, was the highest placed Briton, finishing third behind the German Olympic team gold medal winner Ludger Beerbaum on Almo, Grand Prix of the World Cup.

Turi's only fault came at the upright fence No. 3 in the final jump-off. Asked afterwards how he rated his horse now, the former Hungarian team rider said: "Very highly, but I don't rate the way I rode him."

Turi, seventh in the league, and Bost both praised the course, which was designed by the Belgian Marc Vuignat, called in at the eleventh hour to replace Philippe Gayot, who had a serious illness. Vuignat's first course produced six clear rounds. Several top partnerships made more mistakes, including Michael Whitaker, of Great Britain, on Henderson Montana, who hit the first part of the final double. "He keeps just getting four faults," a Whitaker said afterwards.

Robert Smith also collected four faults on Brook Street Vanessa but was delighted with the performance of the 11-year-old mare, who he bought in October and who has just returned to grand prix competition.

In the second and final jump-off, involving four horses, Turi was drawn to go first, which might have contributed to his expensive mistake. Bost, who was fourth in the World Cup final this year, followed and took the lead with an authoritative clear round in a fast 28.82 seconds. His compatriot Patrice Delaveau proved little danger, collecting 12 faults.

Beerbaum, who has had problems jumping at speed in the Grand Prix, matched Bost's time until the approach to the final fence, where they lost a fraction of a second. "I was not aggressive enough," Beerbaum said. Yesterday marked the last grand prix appearance of Jappeloup, the small black gelding who became a national figure after winning the Olympic individual gold medal with Pierre Durand in 1988. The 15-year-old horse produced a sparkling performance to finish joint fifth.

RESULTS Volvo World Cup Qualifier 1, Norton de Rhys (R-Yves Bost, 0 faults, 28.82s); 2, Almo (Grand Prix), Beerbaum, 4 faults, 28.83s; 3, Waysider (Joe Turi, 4 faults, 29.15s); 4, Van de Walle (R-Yves Bost, 4 faults, 29.15s); 5, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 6, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 7, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 8, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 9, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 10, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 11, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 12, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 13, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 14, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 15, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 16, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 17, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 18, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 19, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 20, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 21, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 22, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 23, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 24, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 25, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 26, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 27, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 28, J. Turi (4 faults, 29.15s); 29, J. 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